TUESDAY
November 7, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Vol.54 • No.263

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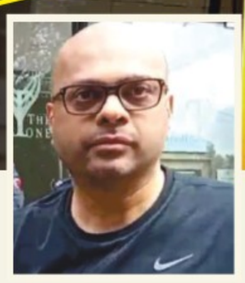

C. Ganesh Narayan

Vidya Nataraj

An unauthorised entity fraudulently calling themselves as C. Krishniah Chetty & Co. started by our own Director Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan & his wife

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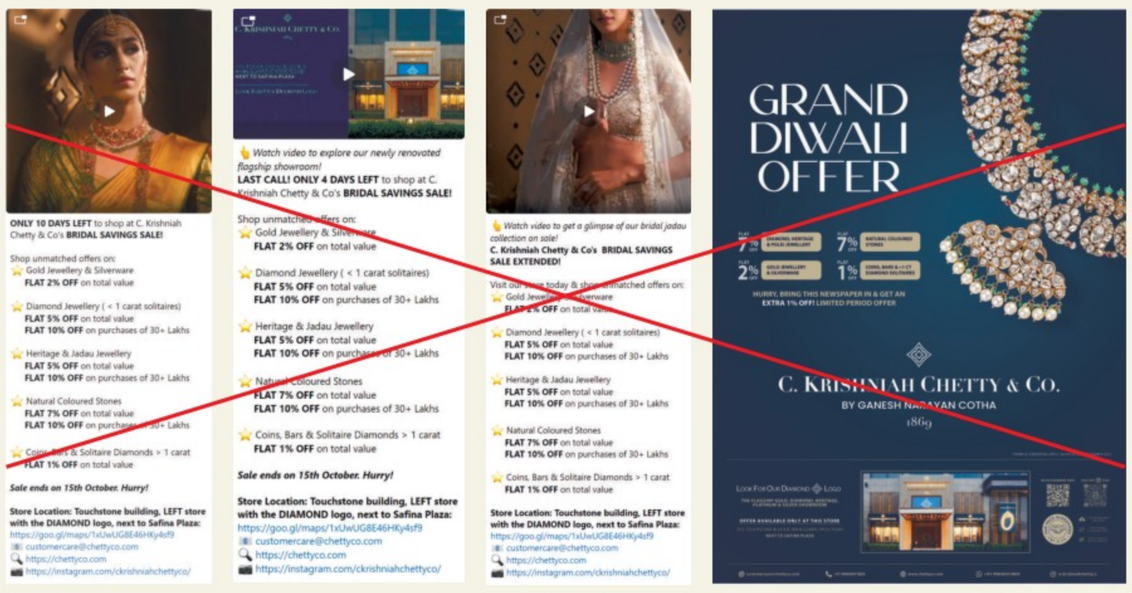

WARNING

WE CAUTION ALL CLIENTS AND PUBLIC

THAT THE COMPANY IS SENDING DISCOUNT SALES VIA WHATSAPP MESSAGES TO OUR DATABASE, WHICH IS BEING MISUSED, IS NOT TO BE REGARDED AS THAT OF C. KRISHNIAH CHETTY & SONS OR C. KRISHNIAH CHETTY GROUP WHICH CONSIST ONLY OF ENTITIES LISTED BELOW, wherin Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan & Mrs. C. Valli Narayan continue to be directors and hold substantial shares.

HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU

has already pronounced orders against Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan and his entities not to start/ conduct, directly or indirectly any jewellery business, at any location including online, that competes with C. Krishniah Chetty & Sons (the well respected oldest South Indian jeweller, running for over 150 years, since 1869).

C. Krishniah Chetty & Sons and Group upholds high corporate governance and will do everything required to protect the brand and it's 150 year heritage.

SCAN QR CODE TO SEE THE COURT ORDER

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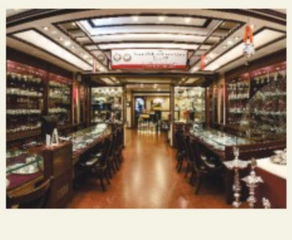

THE HERITAGE SHOWROOM
Commercial Street

THE TOUCHSTONE
Main Guard Cross Road

THE TOUCHSTONE SOUTH
5th Block, Jayanagar

THE TOUCHSTONE WEST
Malleshwaram

THE TOUCHSTONE EAST
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C. Krishniah Chetty business operations are in no way affected and we continue to serve our clients efficiently, with high ethical standards, despite ongoing shareholder disputes in various courts across India.

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*Caution Notice - Issued in Public Interest: *An unrelated business enterprise which has fraudulently changed their name from Deepali Co P Ltd., to same name as ours has been started by Mr. C. Ganesh Narayan current director of our company, and with his wife. The new unauthorised showroom is on LEFT wing of the Touchstone (next to our Flagship Showroom). Their entity is under restraint & being tried under contempt of court orders. We caution all clients/ public to refrain from assuming there is another authorised C. Krishniah Chetty, which is not the case. They are not authorised to use the CKC name or CKC GROUP logo. Matters are pending in courts on high priority. **Note: *If their business is closed by law, products sold by them (since 15.03.2023 when their conflicting business began) will not be considered for buy-back/ exchange under our CKC policies.**

VER-DIS

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DEATH TOLL TOPS 10,000

Israeli forces pound northern Gaza

WORLD » PAGE 15

DELHI GASPS FOR BREATH

Odd-even rule for vehicles to return on Nov. 13

NEWS » PAGE 14

DEADLINE FIXED

Finalise menstrual hygiene policy: SC

NEWS » PAGE 14

STUDENT INFLUX

The Canadian dream is not waning

However, there are clouds of uncertainty

OPINION » PAGE 11

ALL TO PLAY FOR

Resurgent Afghans take on the Aussies

SPORT » PAGE 18

Former driver held for murder of geologist in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police have cracked the murder of Prathima K.S., a senior geologist in the Department of Mines and Geology, by arresting a former driver from Chamarajanagar on Monday.

The police said the accused, Kiran, 32, was sacked from his job by Prathima in October.

He pleaded with her to be taken back. However, she refused, and he bore a grudge against her.

On Sunday, she was found murdered in her house at Doddakallsandra in Bengaluru.

Prathima was living alone in an independent house.

Investigations by the Subramanyapura police revealed that she had returned home from work.

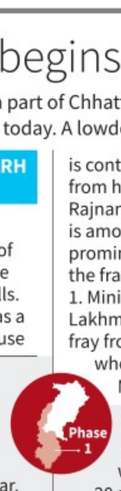
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

Battle begins

Mizoram and a part of Chhattisgarh will go to the polls today. A lowdown:

CHHATTISGARH PHASE 1

- Twenty constituencies of Chhattisgarh are going to the polls. Chhattisgarh has a 90-member House
- Most of these 20 seats are in the Naxal-affected belts with the districts of Bastar, Dantewada, Kanker, Kabeerdham and Rajnandgaon
- Former Chief Minister Raman Singh, who is contesting from his seat of Rajnandgaon, is among the prominent faces in the fray in Phase 1. Minister Kawasi Lakhma is in the fray from Konta, where he is the MLA
- In 2018, the Congress won 17 of the 20 seats that are going to the polls today in Phase 1. BJP had won two seats, while Ajit Jogi's party had won one seat



Final check: A polling booth at Jagdalpur in Bastar district is being prepared for polling. PTI

MIZORAM

- All the 40 seats in Mizoram are going to the polls
- MNF's Zoramthanga from Aizawl East-I, ZPM's Lalduhoma from Serchhip, Congress's Lalsawta from Aizawl West-III and BJP's Lalrinliana Sailo from Mamit are key candidates
- In 2018, MNF had won 27 seats, ZPM eight, Congress five, and BJP one

MORE REPORTS » PAGE 13

'Aftershock' rocks Nepal, Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three days after a violent earthquake struck the Jajarkot region of Nepal, killing at least 150 people, a second earthquake, or an 'aftershock' struck the region on Monday. Much like the November 3 earthquake, tremors were felt as far away as Delhi, though there were no reports of loss of lives, injuries, and damage to structures.

"An earthquake of magnitude 5.6 was recorded in Nepal at 16:16 [4.16 p.m.]," said an alert from the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

Earlier, two aftershocks of magnitude 3.5 and 3.8 were also recorded within a 10-km radius of the main shock.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Governors delaying crucial Bills a matter of concern, says SC

CJI asks why govts. should be made to approach the court for Governors to act; he adds matters must be sorted out between them and the CMs

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed acute displeasure at Governors holding back key Bills, especially in non-BJP-ruled States such as Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana, until State governments approach the top court for judicial intervention.

"This is a serious issue we should look into... Why should parties be made to approach the Supreme Court for the Governors to act. We are a democracy in operation since the birth of the Constitution. These are matters to be sorted out between the Governors and Chief Ministers. We will ensure that the Constitution is complied with," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, observed.

> The Governors should not be oblivious of the fact that they are not elected by the people
>
> D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
> Chief Justice of India

'Do soul-searching'

The Chief Justice said it was time everybody, including Governors and Chief Ministers, did "a little bit of soul-searching".

"The Governors should not be oblivious of the fact that they are not elected by the people," he noted.

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by the Punjab government accusing the Governor of sitting on seven key Bills related to subjects including fiscal and State-affiliated colleges.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

'Power situation back to normal'

BENGALURU
Stating that the average demand for power has increased by 43% in 2023, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the electricity situation in Karnataka has returned to normal after supply to outside the State was prohibited.
» PAGE 6

Child custody issues: HC initiates PIL

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Monday, *suo motu* initiated a PIL petition to frame guidelines for determining issues of child custody in matrimonial disputes before various judicial fora and to involve experts in human psychology in child custody issue. » PAGE 3

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

M BG-BGE

Spirited Afghans have made the cricket world sit up and take note

That in an astounding World Cup campaign, Shahidi's men have punched above their weight and registered victories against three former World Cup champions may have surprised many, but for the Atalan army, the performance is just an extension of what it was expecting

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Amol Karhadkar

India on song has been the highlight of the tournament. England having failed miserably in its mission to defend the crown has been the nadir. But Afghanistan punching above its weight has been the real deal. That has been the story of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 so far.

That the newest Asian sub-continental member in the Test set-up has kept its semifinal hopes alive going into the last week of the tournament speaks volume about the manner in which Afghanistan has performed in the World Cup so far.

Its astounding performance, including wins against three former World Cup champions, may have surprised many, but for the Atalan army, the performance is just an extension of what it was expecting at the start of the tournament.

Time and again during its fairytale journey, Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi has stated that it is far from being satisfied with an odd win against a fancied opponent. In fact, be it after beating England or Pakistan or Sri Lanka, Shahidi has stressed that Afghanistan's goal for the tournament is to make it to the semifinals.

The clarity in his thought and his team's approach on the field has underlined that Afghanistan is extremely good when it comes to walking the talk.

Despite its consistent outings over the last six weeks, not many would have given Afghanistan even a semblance of a chance to make it to the semifinals at the start of the tournament. No doubt, Afghanistan was among the top eight teams which had directly qualified for the World Cup. Unlike Sri Lanka and the Netherlands, it did not have to take the long route of qualifying for the marquee event through a qualification tournament. Still, its recent form was far from encouraging.

Just before the World Cup, the Asia Cup did see Afghanistan give a glimpse of its talent by nearly chasing down a stiff target in well under 40 overs. But the fact that it fell short against Sri Lanka, primarily due to a net run rate calculation error, meant Afghanistan had to finish its Asia Cup dream without qualifying for the Super Four.

Add to that its miserable World Cup record, just a solitary win from its first two appearances in 2015 and 2019, and Afghanistan was more or less considered to be an also-ran in this edition. But the team believed in itself. It was quietly confident of pulling off not just an odd upset, but indeed a miracle. What also helped was the consistency that the Afghanistan set-up showed in its team selection.

Captain Shahidi stressed on it during the tournament. "We worked on this team from last two years. Consistently, we were selecting the same team. We were struggling in some aspects, especially in death overs in fast bowling department. But we tried our best to give that place to someone who can do it for us. And Naveen was not with us, so he joined the World Cup," Shahidi said ahead of its win against Sri Lanka in Pune.

> In our good time and in our bad times, we believed in this team. That's the reason I think we are playing good cricket in the World Cup
> Captain Shahidi

"We were working on this team from last two years and we had series against teams like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh consistently. We were playing a lot of domestic 50-overs cricket and we stuck with our plan. We stick with the same team. When we were not doing good, we still had the belief in this team and these players. In our good time and in our bad times, we believed in this team. That's the reason I think we are playing good cricket in the World Cup."

A quality spin quartet has been Afghanistan's biggest strength in the tournament. From Mohammad Nabi, who has evolved into Mr. Afghanistan over the last decade and a half, to a rookie in Noor Ahmed, Afghanistan has a varied spin attack. Its space pack is not too bad either, with Fazalhaq Farooqi leading the pack.

What was lacking in Afghanistan's performance at the highest stage was its lack of belief and consistency when it comes to batting. Come 2023 and the team seems to have ticked virtually every box as regards its top-six batting. Rahmat Shah has been a revelation at No. 3. So has Shahidi at No. 4. Add to that an aggressive opener in Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Afghanistan has emerged to be as threatening as any other batting unit in the tournament.

So what exactly has changed in its batting approach? Head coach Jonathan Trott spelt out the secret of the batting group's success. "It's about creating a culture, training with the players, feel like they can grow and develop their technique, but also the mental side of the game. As we know, cricket is such a mental game. So, I try and create with the other coaches all the time as to how can we make the practice better or tougher for them so that when it comes to playing the game, it feels similar," Trott said.

"How can we recreate the pressure of a match? And there are times where you need to take your foot off a little bit and build the confidence, but it's again, I always feel if you walk out of a tough net having played really well, that gives you more confidence than somebody throwing you a few half volleys or a few cut shots."

For a war-torn country like Afghanistan, cricket offers a breath of fresh air, not just for the cricket community but for the entire population. That the team is yet to play an international match at home speaks volumes about the struggles that Afghanistan has had to endure, even after earning Test status.

No wonder that we have witnessed what a cohesive unit can achieve, to the delight of the nation. Just like the way it plays cricket on the field, the group has been expressive off it, even when it comes to its political views. It reflected in the manner in which Shahidi dedicated Afghanistan's maiden win against Pakistan in an ODI to the Afghan refugees who were sent back from Pakistan to their motherland.

It's a rarity in the world of cricket for a team to take a stand, and Afghanistan has led from the front even in that regard.

The fact that it has managed to assemble an effective coaching staff has also contributed to its success. A reputed Test cricketer (Trott) at the helm was given former Afghan stalwarts (Hamid Hassan and Raees Ahmadzai) as assistants. The addition of India's street-smart cricketer Ajay Jadeja as mentor at the eleventh hour has lent the additional expertise on local conditions.

It resulted in the players being made to feel comfortable in every aspect and Shahidi's shers have paid it back in a handsome manner. It doesn't matter whether Afghanistan actually makes it to the semifinal or not, but the fact that it has won more games in this edition than Bangladesh has been able to achieve in a single edition since its entry into the World Cup fold in 2003 cannot be overlooked.

Irrespective of where it finishes, the 2023 World Cup will be cherished as much as Afghanistan's World Cup as anyone else's.

Swiatek adjusted really well in these conditions: Sabalenka

Associated Press
CANCUN

Iga Swiatek gave herself a shot at her first WTA Finals title and the year-end top ranking by eliminating No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 in a rain-suspended semifinal.

The second-seeded Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland, will meet the fifth-seeded Jessica Pegula, a 29-year-old from the United States, on Monday for the trophy at the tour's season-ending championship. Both players went undefeated during round-robin play and have claimed all eight sets they've played on the outdoor hard court in Cancun.

"I feel like it's still a long way," Swiatek said, "because tomorrow's match should be like the toughest one." The final was supposed to be held Sunday, but a series of showers throughout the week continued on Saturday, when Pegula defeated Coco Gauff in the first semifinal. The second semifinal, Swiatek vs. Sabalenka, was stopped in the fourth game.

> What are we doing here in the middle of the hurricane season?
> **SABALENKA**
> spoke for everyone involved in the event

Sabalenka surely spoke for everyone involved in the event when she said: "First big question is: What are we doing here in the middle of the hurricane season?" When they resumed Sunday, Swiatek quickly broke, then moved out to a 4-1 lead and never really looked back.

Miles ahead

"I definitely want to give credit to Iga. She adjusted really well in these conditions. And on this court, she was definitely way, way better than me," Sabalenka said. "She just started putting so much pressure on me." Swiatek consistently out-hit the powerful Sabalenka, the runner-up at last year's WTA Finals, from the baseline and wound up with more winners, 16-13, while also making fewer than half as many unforced errors, 23-10.

Swiatek, a four-time Grand Slam champion, also saved both break points she faced and won three of Sabalenka's service games.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January for her first major title, could have guaranteed herself remaining at No. 1 by beating Swiatek. Instead, a victory over Pegula would allow Swiatek to rise from No. 2 to regain the top spot she held from April 2022 to this September, when Sabalenka overtook her.

Swiatek carries a 10-match winning streak into Monday; Pegula has won nine in a row.

And they've been dominating their opponents at a tournament for the top eight women in tennis: Swiatek has ceded only 19 games so far – the fewest en route to the final at the WTA Finals since Justine Henin dropped the same number in 2007 – and Pegula just 22.

"Overall, I feel like me and Jessie, we played really in a smart way, and we've really kept calm. We're pretty focused and just taking the most we can from these matches and conditions," said Swiatek, who is 5-3 head-to-head against Pegula. "So I truly think that we kind of both deserve to be in a final."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr.Senthil Kumar.P S/o.Pazhani Achari .K and his wife Mrs. Renjini** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs.Masooda [alias] Masooda Sardar W/o.Mr.A.R.Sardar Khan;** any person/s, Company, Bank, Financial Institutions objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** time from the date of this public notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.196,** Katha No.425, formed in sy No.100/6 [old No.100] Sathnur Village Panchayat, in a layout **'North Meadows'** converted vide order No.430, dated 03.08.2019, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Property No.572, BBMP Katha Sl.No.219, Situated at **Byappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** Measuring East to West: 45 Feet & North to South : 20 Feet, in all totally Measuring 900 Sq feet, and bounded on:

East by : Site No.204, West by : 20 feet Road, North by : Site No. 107, South by : Site No.196A

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that, my client Smt.VEENA.S @ VEENA SHIVANNA, aged about 38 years, W/o.Sri.L.K.Bharat Gowda, Residing at Old No. 16, New No.23, Nagabhairava 1st Main, 7th Cross, Near Ganesha Temple Ittamdu Layout, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Hosakerehalli, Bangalore-560085, has lost Original document of Sale Deed dated 06.03.2015 bearing document No.YAN-1-09115/2014-15, stored in CD No.YAND588, registered at the office of Sub-Registar, Yelahanka Bangalore, pertaining to Property bearing site No.28, BBMP katha No.1971/92/28 (Old Katha No.92) (Now comes under the BBMP Limits) Situated at Kattigenehalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West (47+46)/2 Feet and North To South 30-0 Feet, in this regard e-lost report was filed on 31.10.2023, vide No. 0788058/2023, with Bangalore City, Police. If any person/s finds the said documents kindly inform the above stated person or address mentioned below. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our client and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 8951856652, 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client **Mr. Ahsanulla Khan,** Son of Athaulla Khan (Phone No.9741903041) has negotiated to purchase below mentioned Schedule Property from its present owner **Sri C.G. Ramesh, S/o C.N. Govindaraj,** presently residing at No.119, 5th K.H.B. Colony, Bangalore-95. **who has acquired the title & Possession by virtue of Registered Release Deed dt: 02/11/2023 executed by his only brother Sri C.G. Badrinath, who were joint owner of Schedule Property.** Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance over the schedule property may notify his/their claim or objections if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be conclusively presumed and deemed that no person/s has/have any right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever in the Schedule Property and further my client will be entitled to proceed with the transaction and get register the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel **Municipal New No.119** situated at K.H.B. Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore with allotted PID No. 67-4-119, New BBMP Ward No.151, measuring East to West-19.73Mtrs and North to South13.64Mtrs in all 269.11square meters. Bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** House No.122, **North by:** House No. 120, **South by:** House No.118.

R.A. RAHMAN, Advocate
#1, "Tippu Chambers", 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, N.R. Road, Bangalore-560002.
Date: 06/11/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client SMT. POPURI SHILPA CHOWDARY, W/o. Sri. Murali Krishna, intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Smt. Lingala Saratha, W/o. Sri. Vijayakumar Reddy Sanivarapu, Residing at No. 1-4-164/2, Nagarigutta, behind Aravinda School, Pulivendula, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Site No. 1, in the residential Layout known as "QUEENS LAND" curved in Sy. No. 275/3 of Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, BBMP Form-B, bearing Serial No. 6757, Property No. 275/3/1 measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 32.3+34.3/2 Feet in total measuring 998 Sq. Ft. and bounded on: East by : 36 Feet road, West by : Other Land, North by : Site No.2, South by : others land.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
& B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
 # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 06-11-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify General Public that, My Client had intended to purchase property bearing Site No.11 & 12, BBMP Katha No.22, PID No.73-72-22, old HASB No.731, Situated at; 12th Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, B-Block, Konena Agrahara, Bengaluru, measuring East to West (34 + 42)/2 feet AND North to South (72 + 76)/2 feet, in all measuring about 2812 Sq Ft., along with old Building Thereon, morefully described in schedule hereunder hereinafter referred **Schedule Property,** from it's owner **M/s.ARIES EXPORT CORPORATION,** a Proprietary concern represented by it's Proprietor Mrs.Madhu Kathuria, Residing at, TRINITY ENCLAVE, Old Madras Road, Nagavara Palya Bengaluru.

It is represented by the owner that, the Original Title Deeds pertaining to Schedule Property viz., Sale Deed dated 24.02.1984, Registered as No.7842, Book-I, Vol.2085, Pages 123-127, in the office of the Sub Registrar Bengaluru South Taluk executed in favor of Sri.K.M.Muniswamy Reddy. AND Sale Deed dated 21.05.1984, Registered as No.1097/84-85, Book-I, Vol.2128, Pages 1-4, in the office of the Sub Registrar Bengaluru South Taluk, have been lost/misplaced. Regarding the same complaint/report has been lodged vide e-lost Report No.0788259/2023; dated 31.10.2023, at SL No.788259 before the Karnataka State Police.

In view of the above, it is requested the General Public, in case any person found the said documents please to intimate and surrender and submit the same to the under mentioned address. AND also claims that, Any person who have any manner of right, title, charge, interest, claim over the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner over the same, may file their objections at Mobile No.9844495539, OR before the undersigned within **seven days** from the date of publication, and if the undersigned, does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner then it shall be presumed that the said Property is free from all sorts of encumbrances, claims and obligations AND may proceed further.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Site No.11 & 12,** BBMP Katha No.22, PID No.73-72-22, old HASB No.731, Situated at; **12th Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, B-Block, Konena Agrahara, Bengaluru,** measuring East to West (34 + 42)/2 feet AND North to South (72 + 76)/2 feet, in all measuring about **2812 Sq Ft.,** along with building thereon, and the same is bounded by;

East : Road
West : Private Property
North : remaining portion of proeprty No.731
South : Road

T.S.Ravi Kumar, Advocate
No.29, 3rd Temple Street,
Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560 003
e-mail:ravikumartsrk@gmail.com
Mob: 9448258996 / 8310539238
Bangalore Date: 07.11.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my clients **Sri SACHIN S K AND NITHIN S.K.,** have negotiated to PURCHASE THE BELOW MENTIONED SCHEDULE PROPERTY from the Present owner **Mrs. SARASWATI BALAKRISHNA @ SARASWATI VENKATRAM,** Aged about 51 years, D/o Dr. S. BALAKRISHNA & W/o Mr. K. Venkatram.

That the aforesaid owner **Mrs. SARASWATI BALAKRISHNA @ SARASWATI VENKATRAM** had lost the original Absolute Sale Deed which stands in the name of original allottee Dr. S. Balakrishna, dated: 16-06-1984, vide document No.1822/1984-85, at pages 239 to 240, Volume No. 2041, of Book-1, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk on 20-06-1984 in respect of the schedule Property and she had already lodged the complaint before the concerned Police Station authorities and so far she has not received the same from the public.

If anybody having any claims, right, title, interest or any objections of the proposed sale, may please submit their representations/Objections along with the documentary proof to the undersigned advocate within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, if no response received from anybody, thereafter my clients shall be at liberty to proceed to obtain the Sale Deed in their favour, and if anybody trace the aforesaid lost document, please hand over the same to them or to their Advocate.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential Site **No.165/D**, situated in the layout formed by the BDA, in Survey No.102 of Nayanappa Setty Palya Village, J.P. Nagar II Phase Extension, Bengaluru, presently BBMP Ward No.177, Bengaluru, having **Municipal New No.165/D, PID No.57-142-165/D**, situated in **5TH MAIN, J.P. NAGAR 3RD PHASE, BENGALURU,** measuring East to West: 60 Feet and North to South: 53 Feet, totally measuring: 3180 Sq.ft., with existing building and bounded on by:

EAST BY: ROAD
WEST BY: SITE NO.165/A
NORTH BY: SITE NO.164/D
SOUTH BY: SITE NO.165/C

Sd/- **A.Manjunath** Advocate
No.924, 28th Main, 9th Block,
Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069.
Ph: 9845395528

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Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**

Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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Commercial Taxes Department

Office of the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Admn) Divisional Goods and Service Taxes Office-6, K.I.A.D.B. Building, 3rd Floor, 14th Cross, 4th Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 058. Ph: 080-28363927.

No.JCCT (Admn)/DGSTO-6/TA/CR-03/2023-24 Date: 04.11.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited separately as per K.T.P.P Act 1999 from reputed manpower service providers to provide 18 (Eighteen) Technical Analyst's services to the office of the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (A), Divisional Goods and Service Taxes Office-6, K.I.A.D.B Building, 3rd Floor, 14th Cross, 4th Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 058 (This Division includes Tumkur, Tiptur, Madhugiri and Sira offices also). Last date to apply for tender is **24-11-2023 within 5:00 p.m.**

For details visit e-procurement website at: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in http://ctax.kar.nic.in**

Sd/- Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Admn.)
DGSTO-6, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/RO/2012/2023-24

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMILNADU STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY (TANSACS)

The full details of call for procurement of 16 Mobile Vehicles with necessary fabrication for Testing & Counseling by Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) is uploaded in **https://tntender.gov.in** and **https://tntansacs.gov.in**

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society
Tender Id : 2023_SACS_375206_1
Tender reference No : TANSACA/ICTC/01/2023-tntender.gov.in

DIPR/5896/Tender/2023

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Following **e-tenders** are published in GoK e-portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under **"GOODS" category on 26.10.2023, 30.10.2023, 31.10.2023, 02.11.2023, 03.11.2023,** as per RTPS requirements. **Brief Details of Goods:** Procurement of **1)* KPCL/2023-24/IND0594** Sodium Chlorite. **EMD: Rs.73,100/-. 2) KPCL/2023-24/IND0591** Test kits and lab re-agents for RTPS Hospital. **EMD: Rs.2,900/-. 3) KPCL/2023-24/IND0598** Coal Nozzle and Coal Compartment Assembly. EMD: **Rs.77,000/-. 4) KPCL/2023-24/IND0595** Batteries. **EMD: Rs.2,600/-. 5) KPCL/2023-24/IND0597** 10HP Dewatering pump. **EMD: Rs.1,500/-. 6) KPCL/2023-24/IND0596** Hoses. **EMD: Rs.1,900/-. 7) KPCL/2023-24/IND0493/CALL-2** KAYCEE make water meter. **EMD: Rs.2,400/-. 8) KPCL/2023-24/IND0477/CALL-2** Strong acid cation and strong base anion resins. **EMD: Rs.20,800/-. 9) KPCL/2023-24/IND0588** Geysers. **EMD: Rs.1,230/-/ 10) KPCL/2023-24/IND0568** Safety PPEs for RTPS on ARC basis for one year. **EMD: Rs.2,000/-. 11) KPCL/2023-24/IND0573** Fire hydrant spares for RTPS on ARC basis for one year. **EMD: Rs.2,000/-. NOTE:** *Sl. No. 1 is on short term basis. Last date for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1 : **08.11.2023,** 16.00 Hrs. For Sl. No. 2: **17.11.2023, 11.00 Hrs.** For Sl. 3, 5 & 6: **18.11.2023, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 4: **15.11.2023, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 7: **16.11.2023, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 8: **20.11.2023, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 9 & 11: **11.11.2023, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 10: **10.11.2023, 16.00 Hrs**. All relevant details are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Purchase)**, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584 170, Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94495 97966. E-mail: eeprtps@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Dr.A.M.SRINIVASA** S/o Late A.Muniswariah, residing at: No.38, ORMEAU, Vaughan Drive, Queensland-4208, Australia.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing MUDA Site No.1373, Mysore Mahanagara Palike (MMP) PID No.45206, measuring East to West 120ft and North to South 80ft, situated at Saraswathipuram T.Koppal, C & D Block Layout, Jayanagar, Mysore and bounded on:

East by : Vishwamanava Double Road
West by : Site No.1375 & 1376
North by : Site No.1372
South by : Site No.1374

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

Tanishq embraces the spirit of Diwali:'Dharohar' collection rekindles India's Timeless Traditions

Tanishq introduces the 'Dharohar' collection, as the enchanting festival of lights, Diwali, draws near. It pays a heartfelt tribute to the timeless charm of heirloom artifacts from an era long gone by, beautifully weaving a connection between the old and new legacies, bridging generations with a sense of heritage and nostalgia. 'Dharohar' is more than just a collection, combining tradition with a touch of modernity. It is a celebration of the heart-warming narratives that have shaped the magnificent past & a testament to the traditions handed down through generations, from treasured family recipes to cherished memories that define who we are. With 'Dharohar,' Tanishq introduces a new chapter in the stories of old. Speaking on the launch of the festive collection, Ms. Revathi Kant, Chief Design Officer,of Titan Company Limited said, "This Diwali, we are thrilled to unveil Tanishq's 'Dharohar' collection, a testament to the heart-warming celebration of our rich traditions and cultural legacies. Diwali, the festival of lights, not only illuminates our homes but also symbolizes the warmth of preserving our heritage. The 'Dharohar' collection, specially curated for the modern woman who treasures her roots, beautifully encapsulates this essence. As we approach this festive season,embracing the magic of Diwali,let 'Dharohar' be the beacon that lights up your celebrations and preserves the legacy of our culture in the most heart-warming way."

Himalaya Wellness Company Hosts "The Mindful Strides Walkathon 2023" to Promote Mental Health and Well-being

Recently one of India's leading wellness brands, Himalaya Wellness Company organized The Mindful Strides Walkathon 2023, at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The invigorating 5K Walkathon was a community event dedicated to promoting mental wellness and raising awareness about the importance of mental health. From children to seniors, from avid fitness enthusiasts to casual walkers, the event attracted diverse participants who were united in their quest for mental well-being. KG Umesh-Director, Human Resources at Himalaya,flagged off the event at Kanteerava Stadium, an iconic arena with a rich sporting history that serves as a hub for sports enthusiasts and talented athletes in the city hosting numerous sporting events. Speaking about the event Jayshree Ullal & K G Umesh says this was a celebration of the importance of mental health and a healthy mind is the greatest treasure. Added saying Himalaya is committed to raising awareness about mental health. Himalaya continues to be at the forefront of initiatives that break the stigma surrounding mental health, guided by the core business philosophy,'Care for Community'.

Bank of Baroda announces CSR initiatives in Bengaluru

Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, rolled out various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in Bengaluru. Shri Debadatta Chand, MD & CEO, Bank of Baroda presented a contribution of Rs. 3 lakh each to Sneha Jyothi Orphan Children's Home and Bangalore Hospice Trust. Sneha Jyothi Orphan Children's Home provides education, food and shelter to orphan children in Bengaluru. Bangalore Hospice Trust is a non-profit charitable trust providing professional palliative care (free of cost) to advanced stage cancer patients.

In addition, Shri Chand also presented a 500 LPH RO Plant worth Rs. 3,00,000/- to Govt Higher Primary School, Yentaganahalli. He also flagged off two Bolero Safari Vehicles, sponsored by Bank of Baroda, to Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park. These vehicles will be utilised in the Park to provide safari rides to the general public at the park.

'GEF India launches 10 Litre Multi-Use Jar of Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil

The all new SKU was launched by Ms. Radhika Pandit, Famous Kannada Actress along with Mr. P Chandra Shekhara Reddy, Sr. VP - Sales & Marketing, Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd and the management of GEF India. The new reusable 10-Litre multi-use jar of Freedom Refined Sunflower oil has been specially designed keeping in mind the requirements of the modern-day consumer and a growing trend of using environment friendly products that can be reused. It is the No. 1 selling brand in the sunflower oil category in India. Speaking on the occasion Mr. P. Chandra Shekhara Reddy, said, "We are a consumer-focused organization and are constantly assessing consumer requirements. Having the rocking couple Yash & Radhika as our brand ambassadors has helped us connect with the people of Karnataka and improve the awareness of the brand. 'Freedom' is a value for money brand, with innovative packing designs, providing our consumers 'Freedom to eat, Freedom to enjoy."

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches its new store at Phoenix Mall of Asia, Hebbal, Bengaluru

Malabar, one of the leading gold and diamond retailers grand opening was graced by the presence of M. P. Ahammed, the CM of Malabar Group, who inaugurated the store alongside O Asher, MD-India Operations, Shamlal Ahammed, MD-International Operations, Filsor Babu, Regional Head - Karnataka, Abdullah Ibrahim, Director and other esteemed dignitaries. Adding to the occasion's glamour, renowned actress Srinidhi Shetty performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The store located on the ground floor of Phoenix Mall of Asia, features the popular sub-brands of Malabar, such as Mine diamond jewellery, Era uncut diamond jewellery, Divine Indian heritage jewellery, Ethnix handcrafted jewellery, Precia precious gemstone jewellery and more. With unique designs, superior customer service, and quality assurances, the store's launch strengthens its presence in the South region as well as across India. Additionally with a slew of offers as part of the inauguration and festive season, Malabar has assured customers a world-class shopping experience. M. P Ahammed shared his utmost delight about the launch and extremley happy to open their newest store at Phoenix Mall of Asia.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board

Office of the Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001
Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (CALL-2)
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. **This office Tender Notification No: 1464 Dated: 03-11-2023. Providing Water Supply System to Alamela, Nalatwad, Chadchan, Talikote Muddebihal, Sankeshwar, Khanapur, Ainapur, Kudachi, Munavalli And Ankalagi-Akkatangerhal Towns under AMRUT 2.O"** including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. **(Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) (CALL-2) INDENT:KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT70** For further information visit e-procurement portal or Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

DIPR/Dwd/456/2023-24/DeshpandePublicity

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE(S)/S E 0001/2023-24 Date: 04.11.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDER
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

On behalf the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, South Division, Bangalore Development Authority, T.Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru, invites tenders through GoK e-procurement platform from intending Applicants for the works mentioned below. Name of work: **Collection of parking fee for vehicles parked in the vehicle parking area at Banashankari 2nd Stage, BDA shopping complex, Bengaluru for the period 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, for one year (12 Months).** Indent No. **BDA/2023-24/S E 0001.** EMD Amount: **Rs.2,50,000/-. For further details, please log on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or call e-Procurement Help desk on 080-22485867 / 22485927.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, South Division, B.D.A., Bengaluru.
BDA/PRO/TN/03/2023-24

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL, BHEL)
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Raichur Power Corporation Limited, Yeramarus Thermal Power Station invited following tender from eligible contractors through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP).

1) KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT852, Dt: 31.10.2023. Providing facility for erection of coal lab equipment and analysers in coal Bhavan at YTPS. **2) KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT853, Dt: 31.10.2023**. Providing water supply line for utilization of STP treated water for garden/plantation at YTPS site. **3) KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT848, Dt: 31.10.2023**. Construction of two wheeler parking near service building at YTPS site. **4) KPCL/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT847, Dt: 02.11.2023**. Formation of balance approach road and drain at ODPH YTPS. Last date & time for receipt of tender for Sl No. 1 to 3 - 15.11.2023 at 17:30 Hrs. for Sl No. 4 - 17.11.2023 at 17:30 Hrs. Tender documents shall be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any details and clarifications contact Executive Engineer (Civil), Yeramarus Thermal Power Station, Chicksugur- 584 134 (Dist: Raichur) during office hours. Mobile - 9480830567.

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ

ಹಳೇ ಮದ್ರಾಸು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 038
e-mail : edh.bang@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಾರೋಆ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/15/2017–18 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.11.2023

ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಥಿಲಾವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ತೆರವು ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ಅವಶೇಷಗಳ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ **17.11.2023 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಸವಾಲುದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯದ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 09:00 ರಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/2007/2023–24

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Chikodi
Tel. No.: 08338-275101 E-Mail: ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com

NO:EE/RDW&S/DN-CKD/PB/KW3&4/TENDER/2023-24/12/1699 Date:03/11/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of govt of Karnataka according to KTTP act 2000 through e-procurement Portal for the below mentioned works.

Work Indent No: 4665, 4975, 4683, 4676

II) Calendar events are as follows :

i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting:06-11-2023 time 11.00Am @ EE R D W & S Division Chikodi, ii) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal 13-11-2023 upto 17.00 hours.

iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: on 15-11-2023 at 11.00 hours, iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid on after approval of technical bid.

III) Other conditions & eligibility criteria etc are as published in e-procurement portal. More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list

Sd/-Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-590/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

KPTCL invites Tenders for the following:

(1) No:B31/SEE(IT)/EE(IT-1)/E-Tender/45452/2023-24 Date: 04.11.2023

Brief Tender Notification (e-Procurement mode only)

(1) Enq. No. KPTCL/B31/SEE(IT)/EE(IT-1)/OSA/3/2023-24 **to "Design, Development, Implementation and Maintenance of a Robust and Scalable Web Enabled Software System for analyzing power requirements at the feeder level for decision making at KPTCL".**

(2) No:B31/SE(IT)/EE(NW&DC)/AEE/45476/2023-24 Date: 04.11.2023

Tender Notification (e-Procurement mode only)

(2) KPTCL invites Bid **"For Procurement of Laptops".**

The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 07.11.2023, 5.00 PM.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elecl), IT,
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT-STAGE II
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION - (Through KPPP portal)

The EE(C), Kadra has invited tenders (Two Cover System) through e-procurement portal of GoK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the particulars are mentioned as follows: **(1)** Indent No.: KPCL/2023-24/DA/WORK_INDENT724 for **Providing and installation of dam safety instruments for KaliProject at Kodasalli Dam (Phase-II)**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 23.27 Lakhs.** EMD: **50,000/-. (2)** Indent No.: KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT742 for **Improvements/restoration works at Chaithanya Garden**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 14.90 Lakhs.** EMD: **18,800/-. (3)** Indent No.: KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_ INDENT761 for **Seepage nala training and restoration works of seepage measuring instruments at d/s of Kadra Dam**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 24.85 Lakhs.** EMD: **50,000/-. (4)** Indent No.: KPCL/2023-24/DA/WORK_INDENT503 for **Painting to Kadra Power House, Parapet of the dam and other structrues**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29.99 Lakhs.** EMD: **30,000/-. (5)** Indent No.: KPCL/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT506 for **providing roof sheets for arresting leakage of hospital building at Kadra Colony.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 13.66 Lakhs.** EMD: **34,200/-. (6)** Indent No.: KPCL/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT775 for **Improvement to Recreating club building of Kadra Colony**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 14.55 Lakhs.** EMD: **18,200/-. Eligible Class of Contractors: for Sl.No. (1):** Individual/Firm/Contractor registration Certificate, **For Sl.No. (2), (3), (5) & (6):** KPWD Class IV & above and **For Sl.No. (4):** KPWD Class III & above. Last date and time for reciept of tenders: **16.11.2023 at 17.30 hrs for Sl.No. (1) to (4) & 16.00 Hrs for Sl.No. (5) & (6). Contract Period(Excluding Monsoon):** 6 months for (1), (5) & (6) and 3 months for (2), (3) & (4) . **Tender Type:** Sl.No. (1), (3) & (5): Open. Sl.No. (2), (4) & (6): Reserved. Further details can be had from **The Executive Engineer(Civil), Kadra Division, KPCL, Kadra-581396, Ph.No. 08382-256334.**

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I,ABBIDALI SAHEB NADAF S/O PEERSAB NADAF, R/O Maradur, Halagi, Haveri, Karnataka–581213, Have changed my name to ABBIDLAISAB NADAF

I, AAYESHA W/o Ghazanfar Basha Patel residing at No.67, 3rd Flr, 7th Crs, N.S.Layout, Hennur Main Rd, Near Priya High School, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru -560084 have changed my name to Aayesha Ghazanfar Patel vide affidavit dated 06/10/2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, SOMASHEKHARA Narayanappa S/o Narayanappa residing at No.6, 7th Crs, NS Layout, Opp Hosmat Educational Institute, Laggere, Bengaluru-560058 have changed my name to Somashekar Narayanappa vide affidavit dated 06/10/2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAYAM SAMLIN**, D/o. Jayaraj, Aged about 34 years, R/at No. 128, Bande Road, Kogilu Layout, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560 064, do hereby declare that, my correct name is **JAYAM SAMLIN.** But my name was wrongly mentioned in Passport i.e., **JAYAM SAMLIN JAYARAJ** instead of **JAYAM SAMLIN** vide affidavit dated 6.11.2023 sworn to before B. Hanumantharaya, Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru.

TENDERS

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Kochi 03.11.2023 Sd/- Senior Manager (Project / Tech)

INBRIEF

New office-bearers of Forum of former VCs of Karnataka

New office bearers for the Forum of Former Vice-Chancellors of Karnataka for 2023-26 have been elected unopposed.

According to a release, Dr. S. Chandrashekar Shetty has been elected as the president. The other office-bearers are Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Dr. B.G. Sangameshwara – vice presidents; Dr. H. Maheshappa - secretary; Dr. T.D. Kemparaju - treasurer; Dr. Sarvamangala Shankar - joint secretary; Dr. S.N. Hegde, Dr. N.S. Ramegowda, Dr. S.S. Murthy, Dr. R.N. Sreenivasa Gowda, Dr. R. Chandrashekhara, Dr. S. Sacchidanand, Dr. M.K. Surappa, Dr. Pamashekhar, Dr. G.Hemantha Kumar are executive committee members. Dr. K.S. Rangappa, Dr. Suresh S. Honnappagol and Dr. E.T. Puttaiah ex-officio members.

From Page One

Former driver arrested for murder of geologist in Bengaluru

She was dropped at home by her new driver who parked the official vehicle near her house before leaving for his house.

The accused, according to the Subramanyapura police, knew Prathima's routine. He allegedly attacked her just as she was entering her house, slit her throat and dragged her body inside the house before leaving the place.

The murder came to light when Prathima's brother called her. When there was no response, he went to her house to check, and found her body.

Police suspected that someone known to her was the culprit, and that the motive for the murder was not gain, as all valuables were intact.

Initially, police had a difficult time looking for clues, as there are no CCTV cameras in the house. However, meticulous investigation and gathering of evidence from in and around the area led the police to zero in on the accused.

Families and groups to benefit as Namma Metro to extend QR ticket to multiple passengers soon

Introduced a year ago, QR code ticketing enables passengers to buy one-way transit tickets via WhatsApp and the Namma Metro mobile app

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Responding to public demand, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will soon allow one mobile QR ticket to accommodate multiple people in its QR ticketing system, benefiting families and groups. At present, a QR ticket permits only one passenger to pass through.

Introduced a year ago in November 2022, QR code ticketing enables passengers to buy one-way transit tickets via WhatsApp and the Namma Metro mobile app.

BMRCL is currently working on developing a system along with the app provider to generate QR codes that can facilitate the entry of multiple people at the gates. FILE PHOTO

One QR code

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BMRCL official said, "Very soon, we are launching a mobile QR ticketing system which will allow more than one person to use the same QR code to be tapped at the automatic fare collection (AFC) gates to travel in the metro."

"For instance, if someone needs to purchase four tickets through the app, the system will generate a QR code. To enter, the person should tap the QR code at the AFC gates. Each person's entry requires a separate tap, so the person should tap four times for the entry of each person," the official explained.

BMRCL is currently working on developing a system along with the app provider to generate QR codes that can facilitate the entry of multiple people at AFC gates. The passengers were demanding such an initiative by the BMRCL from the day the QR code ticketing was launched in the Bengaluru metro which will help people travelling in groups.

Mahesh Kumar, a metro passenger who uses QR code tickets, said, "I've been eagerly waiting for this initiative. Whenever I travel with my family, it was hard for me to buy QR code tickets for each one of us and end up buying token tickets. Now, it will be much more convenient for us to use QR codes. This should have been implemented earlier."

At present, passengers can choose from various ticketing options, including tokens, day passes, smart cards, mobile QR tickets, and group tickets. BMRCL provides a 5% discount on the fare for customers using smart cards and QR-based tickets over the token ticket fare.

Namma Metro operations in the city completed 12 years on October 20. According to a BMRCL newsletter issued in September, 56.04% of commuters used smart cards, 43.91% used tokens for travelling and 00.05% used group tickets to commute in the metro in August.

Unified ticketing system

Meanwhile, commuters who depend on public transport are urging BMRCL and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) to establish a unified ticketing system, enabling seamless travel on both metro and city buses. While BMTC had previously announced a QR-based ticketing system through its app, it has been delaying the implementation due to several issues. Praseetha Rao, a commuter who uses both the metro and BMTC buses, said, "It's unfortunate that BMRCL and BMTC haven't implemented a unified system allowing people to use a single ticketing platform for both modes of transport. Having a single smart card or mobile app would greatly benefit commuters."

In 2011, when the metro service was launched in the city, BMRCL and BMTC introduced a joint paper ticket enabling passengers to use both metro and city buses. However, this initiative was discontinued a few months later due to poor patronage.

Meanwhile, the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) introduced by BMRCL in March this year has received limited response, with only approximately 5,000 people purchasing the card until August. BMRCL officials noted that most metro travellers prefer Namma Metro smart cards, suggesting a shift to NCMC can only occur when BMTC and other transport services also implement its usage.

Metro ticket options

- At present, passengers can choose from various ticket options, including tokens, day passes, smart cards, mobile QR tickets, and group tickets
- BMRCL provides a 5% discount on the fare for customers using smart cards and QR-based tickets over the token ticket fare
- Namma Metro operations in the city completed 12 years on October 20. According to a BMRCL newsletter issued in September, 56.04% of commuters used smart cards, 43.91% used tokens for travelling, and 00.05% used group tickets to commute in the metro in August

Railway head constable held for joining hands with habitual offender

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Investigating a theft case reported in the Cantonment station, the railway police not only arrested a 38-year-old habitual offender, but also his associate, who turned out to be a head constable.

The accused head constable, identified as Siddarama Reddy from Chickballapur railway station, used to move around with habitual offender Sabanna, 38, on trains and the latter would steal valuables from passengers, while Reddy would give him backup in case of any problems. The accused would then share the cash and gold valuables among themselves, while dumping laptop, bags and mobile phones in the bushes along the railway track fearing that they would get caught someday.

Using the modus operandi, Sabanna had stolen a bag containing valuables worth ₹10 lakh from Usha Srikumar who was travelling from Thrissur to Bengaluru and jumped from the moving train on August 23. Based on the complaint, the Cantonment police stepped up vigil and managed to catch Sabanna who was moving suspiciously in K.R. Puram railway station looking for targets. Based on detailed questioning, he confessed to the crime and also spilled the beans about Reddy.

Superintendent of Police (Railways) S.K. Soumyalatha suspended Reddy pending inquiry, while four theft cases have been registered against the duo for further investigations.

This adds to a series of embarrassments to the police force. In October 2022, Mahendra Gowda, a head constable attached to the Chandra Layout police station , was arrested for stealing ₹10 lakh from a businessman. The same month, police constable Yellappa attached with Kempegowda International Airport police station was also arrested.

'Driver was furious with Prathima for not reinstating him'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prathima K.S.

Kiran

Kiran, the 32-year-old sacked driver who was arrested by the Subramanyapura police for allegedly murdering a senior geologist, Prathima K.S., outside her house in Doddakallasandra on Friday night, was furious with her for not reinstating him, said the police.

Kiran, who worked with Prathima for four years, was sacked for being rude and unruly. Prathima, after repeated warnings, sacked Kiran, replacing him with another driver on a contract basis.

A resident of Jambusavari Dinne in Konankunte, Kiran and his father have been working in the Mines and Geology Department as drivers for eight years. He was a contract employee, and he presumed that his services would be regularised and that he would be made a permanent employee in two to three years if all went well.

Kiran had even told everyone, including his friends, relatives and family members, that his job as a driver had been already regularised, a senior police officer said.

Kiran, who was jobless for over a month, had trouble at home, and his wife separated from him.

Desperate, he wanted to get back to work and came to Prathibha's apartment a day before the murder to meet her and request her to take him back.

As she was not available, Kiran came back on Friday night and waited, Rahul Kumar Shahpurwad, DCP, south division, who supervised the investigation, said.

The Subramanyapura police, on Sunday morning around 8.30 a.m., received a phone call from Pratheesh stating that he had come to his sister's house in Doddakallasandra near Gokulam Apartments as she was not receiving his phone calls since the previous night.

Pratheesh told the police that he found the front door of his sister's two-storied independent house open, and she was lying motionless in her bedroom in a pool of blood.

Three special teams

Considering the magnitude of the case, three special teams were formed. After collecting information from Prathima's colleagues and neighbours, they learnt that a former driver named Kiran, who was sacked a couple of months ago, had gone incommunicado.

Kiran's phone remained switched off, and when the police inquired with Kiran's family members, they did not have any idea as to where he was.

This turned the needle of suspicion towards the former driver, after which the two police teams started pursuing his whereabouts and traced Kiran to Male Mahadeshwara (M.M.) Hills in Chamarajanagar.

Kiran was picked up by the police on Sunday night, and he was brought to Bengaluru the same day. During the interrogation, he admitted to the crime.

According to the officials, Kiran told the police that he had gone to Prathima's house on Saturday night as he knew that she would get back home by around 8 p.m. on working days.

He met Prathima on Saturday one last time to apologise and request her to reinstate him to the job.

However, when Prathima was in no mood to give a hearing to him, he forced himself inside her house and decided to kill her. Kiran initially used a veil Prathima was wearing to strangle her.

When she fell unconscious, he went to her kitchen and brought a knife with which he slit her throat.

After confirming that she was dead, he waited for the right time to escape. Kiran then fled to Chamarajanagar the same night.

The police have also retrieved CCTV camera footage of Kiran near Prathima's house on Saturday night.

Job loss

According to the investigating officer, ACP Pavan N., Kiran was depressed as he was removed from his job. Prathima used to reprimand him for his rude behaviour and even warned him that she would remove him from the job if he continued with his behaviour.

There was an occasion when he abused others when the vehicle he was driving met with a minor accident.

It was then that Prathima decided to replace him, a senior police officer who was a part of the investigation said.

Another police officer said after Kiran was sacked, he had approached Prathima at the office two or three times, requesting her to reinstate him.

However, Prathima had by then found a replacement for him.

There were also allegations that Kiran would leak information about raids and inspections that the junior officers at the Mines and Geology Department would carry out.

However, the police maintained that they were questioning him further.

The murder snowballed into a controversy after BJP leaders alleged that the mining mafia was murdering honest officers.

They also accused the Home Minister of not taking law and order issues seriously.

Popular shopping destinations come alive ahead of Deepavali

Spoorthi Niranjan
BENGALURU

Decorative items being sold ahead of Deepavali, at Gandhi Bazaar in Bengaluru on Monday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

As the festival of lights inches closer, popular shopping destinations are coming alive with people thronging places to purchase everything necessary for the festival.

After a steep fall in sales during the COVID-19 years, markets have been picking up steadily, now seemingly reaching a point of pre-COVID normalcy. With the return of community celebrations, festive needs have grown in demand in the last two years. Alongside festive wear, lamps and pooja items, electronics are also highly in demand since people have a higher tendency of making impulse purchases, according to Suhail Yusuff, the secretary of the Brigade Shop and Establishment Association.

He also said that festive shopping will continue straight from Dasara-Deepavali till Christmas-New Year celebrations, managing to keep a steady spike in sales at a time when it otherwise would have gone down.

During the pandemic, 22% of shops on the road were forced to shut down, he recalled. Preceding the pandemic, repair work happening on roads connecting residential areas to Brigade Road further discouraged people from shopping there. "However, it is much better now as not only have most shops been reoccupied by better, more attractive brands, but through metro connectivity and completion of roadwork in certain areas, not only youngsters but even families are opting to shop on Brigade Road. "This year's Dasara was fantastic. Sales have picked up 100% and we only expect it to increase further during Deepavali," said Mr. Yusuff.

Commercial Street, another crowd-favourite, peaks in sales during Deepavali. Sanjay M., president of the Commercial Street Traders Association, said shops on Commercial Street and its by-lanes offer a huge spectrum of product line to a huge spectrum of customers.

"There exists a personal relationship between shops and shoppers that you can't find at malls," he said.

Other popular destinations such as Malleshwaram, Chickpet and K.R. Market continue to see their annual Deepavali surge.

"I've been shopping in the Malleswaram market with my parents since I was a child. It was great to see the festivity and the atmosphere of the market, especially because it had gotten very quiet during the pandemic. So, more than the shopping itself, it's great to see the liveliness people feel during Deepavali," said Tejaswini Durbha, a resident of Malleswaram.

Guruprasad R.K., secretary of Heritage Basavangudi Residential Welfare Association, said that the Gandhi Bazaar redevelopment plan, and subsequent blocking of connecting roads, has reduced sales by nearly 50%, as noted during Dasara.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients 1) Sri. KESHAV KUMAR, S/o. Sri. Sudhir Roy, and his wife 2) Smt. NAMRATA BHARTI are intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners Sri. PHILIP .A, (aadhar:62264412390), S/o. Sri. Anthonappa and his children and Wife, all residing at No. 49, Bannerugatta Main Road, Near Church, Kalenagrahara Village, Bangalore-560076.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment bearing Flat No. B-G9, measuring 1230 Sq. Ft. of SBA in the Ground Floor of the apartment Building "C.V.K. MEENAKSHI ELEGANCE" constructed in the Land bearing Sy. No. 23, situated at Klenagrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on: East by : Lands of Sy. No. 24, West by : Lands of Sy. No. 27, North by: Road, South by : Lands of Sy. No. 27.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
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& B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
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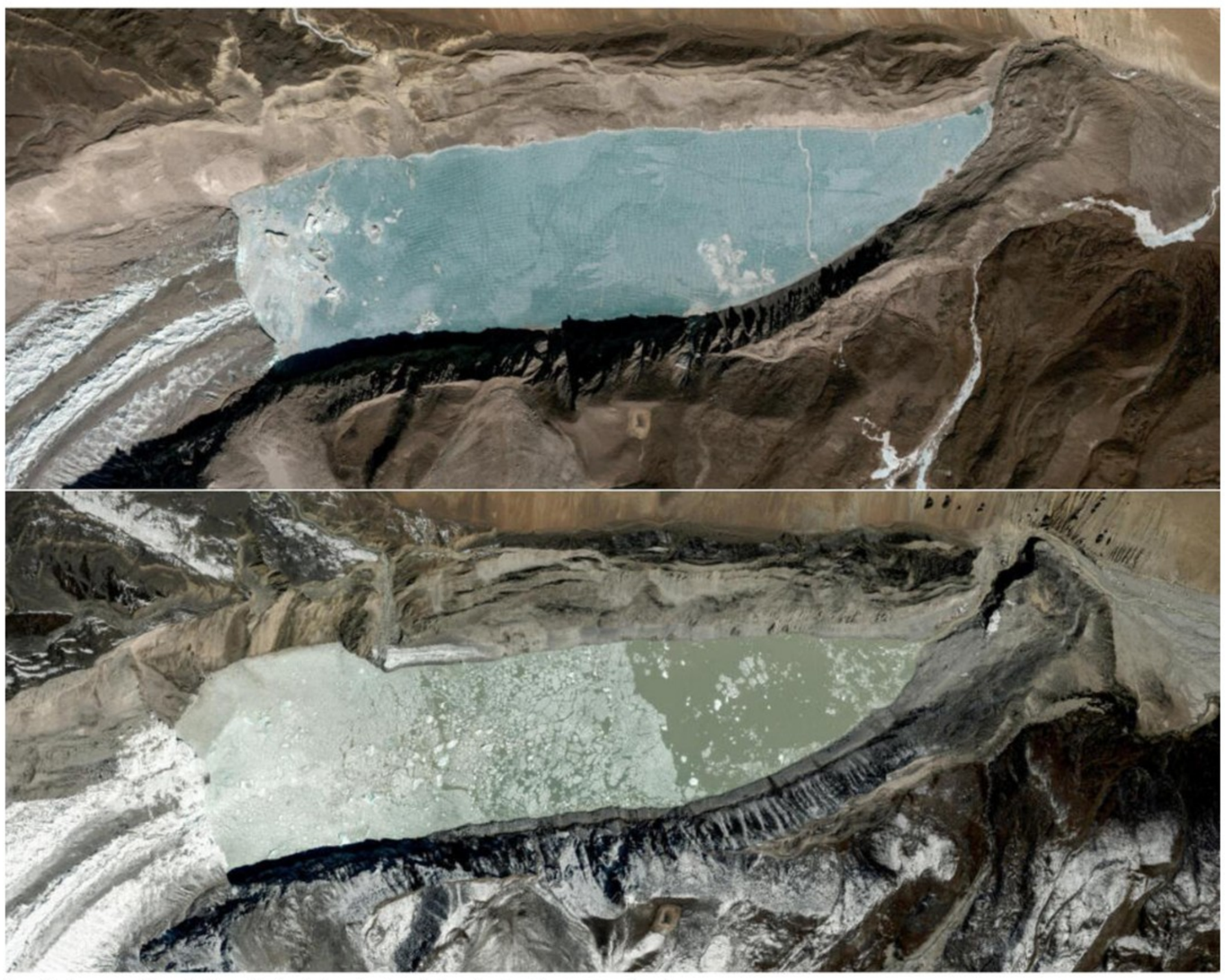
Bangalore, Date : 06-11-2023

In the Sikkim flood's wake, a trail of hazards lie in wait

The South Lhonak Lake is one of the largest and fastest growing glacial lakes in Sikkim, and has been a potential hazard for several years. Dan Shugar, a geomorphologist from the University of Calgary, said that as a result of the flood, the lake's area shrank by 16 hectares

Kavita Upadhyay



Satellite images of South Lhonak Lake before (top) and after the October 3, 2023, flood. MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/REUTERS

The South Lhonak lake in the Himalayan state of Sikkim breached on the night of October 3, resulting in a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) that ravaged four districts. At least 42 people died as a result and 77 more are still missing. More than a month after the disaster, the lake remains a potential hazard, say scientists.

The South Lhonak lake is located in North Sikkim, at an altitude of 5,200 m. According to scientists, the current interpretation of the flood - which relies heavily on satellite data - suggests that on October 3 night, a slope failure occurred along the lateral moraine (a mass of debris and rocks) on the lake's left bank. Preliminary research found that some of the landslide material scraped the glacier terminus; most of it hit the lake, creating an impulse wave that moved towards the lake's narrow front end.

It widened the lake's outlet, resulting in a partial breach, said Ashim Sattar, a mountain hazard specialist who is currently studying the GLOF and has authored research articles predicting different GLOF scenarios for the South Lhonak lake. There was also a probable overtopping as water moved over the moraine along the lake's outlet. The result was a GLOF that affected around 88,400 people in Sikkim's Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts.

The lake is one of the largest and fastest growing glacial lakes in Sikkim, and has been a potential hazard for several years now. Dan Shugar, a geomorphologist from the University of Calgary in Canada, who is currently conducting research on the GLOF, noted that before the flood, the lake's area was 1.62 sq. km, and after water being drained out in the GLOF, the area dropped to 1.46 sq. km.

Dr. Sattar said, "While the lake level was lowered due to the flood, it did not drain completely. A lot of water still remains in the lake, making it a potential hazard."Adding to the existing hazard, weeks after the disaster, there have been continuous landslides along the slope that first failed on October 3, Dr. Shugar added.

When the flood gushed through the valley, it triggered a landslide about 30 km downstream of the South Lhonak lake, which blocked the river, forming a landslide-dammed lake. After reviewing satellite images, Dr. Sattar surmised that the lake had not drained even by November 1.

Considering the risk of sudden release of water downstream, it requires monitoring.

What caused the GLOF?

The Sikkim government has been claiming that the GLOF was triggered by a cloudburst. In fact, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's daily reports on deaths and damages continue to call the flood "cloudburst induced". The National Disaster Management Authority's October 4 press release also called the event a "likely combination of excess rainfall and a GLOF".

However, according to G.N. Raha, who heads the Meteorological Centre in Gangtok, the possibility of either a cloudburst or extreme rainfall triggering the GLOF is very low. The 10 weather stations across North Sikkim recorded light-to-moderate rainfall for the period of the GLOF, Dr. Raha said.

On the morning of October 4, the station at Lachen, almost 46 km from the South Lhonak lake, recorded only 6.7 mm rainfall for 24 hours, he said. However, scientists continue to analyse meteorological data for accurate information regarding the role of rainfall in the GLOF.

Researchers are also currently checking whether earthquake tremors could have triggered the GLOF.

How did the disaster happen?

The disaster downstream of the lake was not caused solely by the GLOF, but by a cascade of several events.

One of the most affected places was Chungthang, a town around 62 km from the lake, where the dam of Sikkim's biggest hydropower project - the 1,200-MW Teesta-III - broke. Water from the damaged reservoir combined with the GLOF, leading to even more destruction downstream of the dam.

While the reservoir's gross storage capacity was 5.08 million cubic metres, the volume of water stored in it at the time of the disaster is currently not known. Further downstream of the Teesta-III dam, two more hydropower projects were damaged: the 510-MW Teesta-V and the 500-MW Teesta-VI that is under construction.

"In the Teesta Basin, where GLOFs are evident, placing mega-dams was a bad decision," said Mayalmit Lepcha, an activist associated with the Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT), a collective of Sikkim's citizens protesting against harmful dams on the Teesta river for more than a decade and a half. The lack of early warning also proved to be detrimental, she said.

> Signs of climate change emerged in the South Lhonak glacier decades ago. As the glacier melted the lake began growing rapidly, increasing the possibility of a breach

Maximillian Van Wyk de Vries, an assistant professor of physical geography at the University of Nottingham, U.K., said that at the South Lhonak lake, a large section of the lateral moraine was "moving for many years preceding the collapse, at a rate of several metres per year".

Prior analysis of a possible landslide, which can be inferred using satellite imagery, would have guided glacial lake management efforts and infrastructure planning in the Teesta Basin, he said.

On October 13, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) National Remote Sensing Centre published satellite images showing a large deposit of sediments and several landslides along the path of the flood, especially in and around the Chungthang dam. The loose sediment may pose a threat to downstream areas in future, said Kalachand Sain, Director of the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology.

In view of the many hydropower-related dams in the Teesta Basin, the large amount of loose sediment that can easily be eroded by heavy water flow may imply a shorter lifespan for dams and lower efficiency for hydropower projects, scientists said.

What is the role of climate change?

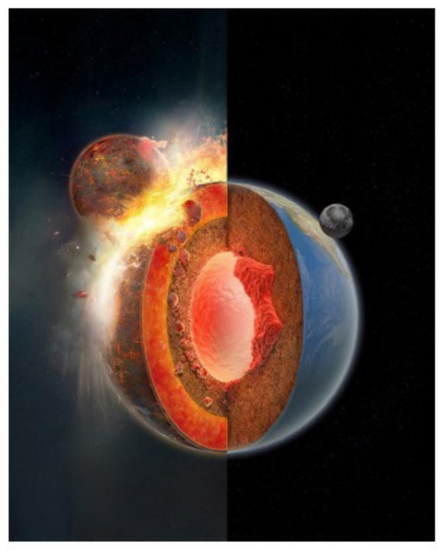
In the South Lhonak glacier, the signs of climate change emerged decades ago and became stronger as the rate at which the glacier melted increased, resulting in a rapidly growing lake that was bound to breach - as several research studies stated. In 1990, the South Lhonak glacier was 6.4 km long. A research article published in 2021 found that, by 2019, it had reduced by about 1.3 km and that its area had declined by about 0.96 sq. km.

In 1976, the South Lhonak lake area was a mere 0.20 sq. km, according to a research article published in 2018. As the glacier shrank, the lake grew larger. By 2019, the lake was covering 1.35 sq. km, per the 2021 article.

GLOFs are natural, but the rapid increase in the lake's size as a result of the glacier's accelerated melting tied closely to anthropogenic climate warming, said Dr. VWDV (as he prefers his last name) of the University of Nottingham

Anil V. Kulkarni, Distinguished Scientist at the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science's Divecha Centre for Climate Change, said, "The lake's rapid expansion might have weakened the permafrost that was holding the moraines, which would have been one of the important reasons behind slope failure on October 3."

(Kavita Upadhyay is an independent journalist and researcher who writes on disasters in the Indian Himalayan Region.)



An artist's impression shows 'Theia' colliding with the earth. REUTERS

The earth's interior may hold relics of moon-forming mega impact

Reuters

Seismologists have recognised since the 1970s that two mysterious continent-sized blobs reside in the deepest part of the earth's mantle, one under Africa and the other under the South Pacific region.

These blobs may be relics from a cataclysm early in our planet's history hypothesised to have spawned the moon - the collision between primordial earth and a Mars-sized object called Theia, researchers have said.

This impact, which recent research determined occurred more than 4.46 billion years ago, blasted molten rock into space that orbited the earth and coalesced into the moon. But chunks of Theia may have remained inside the earth, sinking to a location just above our planet's super-hot core of iron and nickel.

The researchers ran computer simulations examining the impact event, geophysical properties of the material that likely made up Theia, and the evolution of the earth's mantle.

Based on these simulations, they proposed that most of Theia was absorbed into the earth, forming the blobs, while residual debris formed the moon.

"The bottoms of these blobs are 2,900 kilometres below our feet. The two blobs are about 2% of the earth's mass," said Caltech geophysicist Qian Yuan, lead author of the study published in Nature. "Each of the blobs are twice the mass of the whole moon."

This collision likely set the initial condition of the earth's evolution. Studying its consequences may help us to figure out why [it] is different than other rocky planets

If the study's conclusions are correct, the blobs would represent elusive evidence right here on the earth of the hypothesised moon-forming collision.

"There hasn't been much consensus on whether we can find evidence for this event not just in the moon but also in some observable property of the modern earth," Caltech geology and geochemistry professor and study co-author Paul Asimow said.

"It is incredible because we can uncover relics of another planet - Theia - if we dig deep enough in Earth's mantle," added planetary scientist and study co-author Hongping Deng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Shanghai Astronomical Observatory.

The increased density of the blobs is thought to arise from their high iron content.

"If our model is correct, the blobs should have isotopes that are similar to the lunar mantle rocks, which can be tested in future lunar missions," Yuan said.

Gaining a greater understanding of the hypothesised giant impact may provide insight concerning the evolution of the earth and other rocky planets in our solar system.

"The earth is still the only confirmed habitable planet, and we don't know why," Yuan said. "This collision likely set the initial condition of the earth's evolution. Studying its consequences may help us to figure out why [it] is different than other rocky planets."

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The oddities of terahertz radiation

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

According to a classification of the International Telecommunications Union, the frequencies used for radio transmissions are divided into 12 ranges. The highest is THF, for 'tremendously high frequency', and is in the terahertz range. The lowest is ELF. What does it stand for?

QUESTION 2

Name the cellular network generation that will use 0.3 terahertz frequency radiation to transmit data.

QUESTION 3

The conventional hardware and techniques used to produce microwave and infrared radiation – which lie on either side of the terahertz band – can't be used to produce terahertz radiation of 0.1-30 THz. This requires new technologies. What is this technological interval called?

QUESTION 4

Name the type of plastic that is used to make lenses to focus or otherwise manipulate terahertz radiation. This type is preferred because the material has roughly equal refractive indices for terahertz and visible radiation, is transparent to both, and mechanically robust.

QUESTION 5

This telescope represents the world's largest ground-based astronomical undertaking, costing $1.5 billion to build. Using 66 radio telescopes, it observes the cosmos in the submillimeter wavelengths – i.e. in the terahertz frequency range. Name it.

Answers to November 2 quiz:

1. Telescope used to discover cosmic microwave background – **Ans: Holmdel Horn**
2. Namibian telescopes used to resolve gamma-ray sources – **Ans: High Energy Stereoscopic System**
3. World's largest telescope observing at lower end of radio frequency – **Ans: Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope**
4. Astrosat's predecessor that ISRO launched in 1996 – **Ans: Indian X-ray Astronomy Experiment**
5. South India telescope with giant antenna and great sensitivity – **Ans: Ooty Radio Telescope**

Visual: **Pillars of Creation**

First contact: Harsha Makkuva | P.N. Moorthy

Answers to November 3 quiz:

1. Body's ability to maintain stable internal environment even during external challenges – **Ans: Homeostasis**
2. Phenomenon of experiencing relaxation listening to gentle whispers and subtle crinkles – **Ans: ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response)**
3. Patient experiencing real health improvements due to belief of receiving effective treatment – **Ans: Placebo effect**
4. Practice of deliberately focusing attention on the present moment, often used to reduce stress – **Ans: Mindfulness**
5. Term for practice of spending time outdoors to improve mental and emotional well-being – **Ans: Ecotherapy**

Visual: **Solar plexus**

First contact: Mohammed Anshad E.K. | Kamuju Ridhi Trailokya | Irfan Ali

A radio telescope. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

HC initiates *suo motu* PIL to involve psychologists on child custody issues

There is an imminent requirement to have a dedicated facility in the form of experts in the field of human psychology providing their services in resolution of disputes and to protect the interests of children, says the High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday, *suo motu* initiated a PIL petition to frame guidelines for determining issues of child custody in matrimonial disputes before various judicial fora and to involve experts in human psychology in child custody issue.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit ordered issue of notice to the Central and State governments asking them to submit their response to the petition filed by the Registrar-General based on the Court's October 5, 2023, order. While the court appointed senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa as amicus curiae in the proceedings, advocate Nayana Tara B.G. has been asked to assist the *amicus curiae*.

FROM THE COURT

Child is most affected

"The discord between spouses may also have a psychological angle. Similarly, matters involving custody of the child are also required to be looked at not only from the legal and technical aspect, but its psychological aspect."

To deal with such a situation, the Court said, there is an imminent requirement to have a dedicated facility in the form of experts in the field of human psychology providing their services in resolution of disputes and to protect the interests of children.

Also, the court has further noted that in a majority of matrimonial disputes, particularly in matters involving issue regarding custody of child, the most affected party is the child.

Psyche of child

Meanwhile, it has been stated in the petition that biological parents, in a matrimonial dispute, usually assert their rights over the custody of children and constantly use methods to persuade the impressionable minds of children into believing that they are the most suited to cater to their needs.

Grandparents and other family members, it has been stated in the petition, too impair the judgement of the child or children using similar techniques of persuasion, and it is necessary to have guidelines to consider these aspects and properly assess the psyche of the child prior to passing an order granting custody.

'White material inside suspicious boxes is salt'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The white material found in the two suspicious boxes placed near Shivamogga Railway Station is said to be table salt, according to the preliminary inquiry by the experts.

Shivamogga Superintendent of Police G.K. Mithun Kumar informed the media on Monday morning, "The white material found inside the boxes is salt (table salt) as per preliminary inquiry."

SAD DEMISE

LATHA GANAPATHI
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FAMILY MEMBERS & FRIENDS

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Textile Floor Covering — Artificial Grass Carpet made of Synthetic Yarn for Landscape - IS 18158 : 2023
Handloom Silk Dhotis and Printed Saris Specification IS 1583: 1991
Textile Floor Covering- Hand Knotted Silk Carpets - Specification IS 14566: 2023
10-11-2023
11:30 hrs to 13:30 hrs
Venue:
Bureau of Indian Standards,
Peenya Industrial Area,1st Stage,
Tumkur Road, Bengaluru - 560 058.
Kindly confirm your participation by E-mail : pradeep@bis.gov.in
You may contact Shri M Pradeep Kumar – 9884373909 (Whatsapp)
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O&M 6645

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The subsidised price of the wheat flour 'Bharat Atta'

27.5 rupees per kg. The Union government formally launched the sale of wheat flour at a subsidised rate across the country to provide relief to consumers from high prices. PTI

Hidden cost added to the global economy by food system

10 in $ trillion. The food and agriculture system adds hidden costs to the global economy every year due to unhealthy diets, emissions and undernourishment, according to a UN agency. AFP

The number of Afghans repatriated to Afghanistan

1.74 in lakh. The 'voluntary' evacuation has been going on since the Pakistani government gave an ultimatum to all unregistered foreign nationals to leave the country. PTI

The Palestinian death toll after a month of the ongoing war

10,000 About 1.5 million Palestinians, or around 70% of Gaza's population, have fled their homes since the war began. PTI

Household car ownership declines in Singapore

33 in percentage. Singapore has witnessed a decline in car owners, with households owning automobiles in the city-state, down from 40% in 2013. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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States in Court against their Governors

Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Punjab have approached the Supreme Court to decide a time-frame for which Governors have to either return or grant assent to Bills passed by Legislatures. Some of these Bills have been sitting with the Governors for years

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

A battery of non-BJP ruled States have approached the Supreme Court accusing their Governors of using a non-existent discretion to unreasonably delay the passing of crucial Bills into law. The Bills in limbo cover sectors such as public health, higher education, Lokayukta and cooperative societies.

The accusations

Tamil Nadu has accused Governor R.N. Ravi of toying with the citizens' mandate by sitting on the Bills by neither assenting nor returning them. It said the Governor has positioned himself as a "political rival" who has caused a "constitutional deadlock" by simply sitting on the Bills for months together. Kerala, in its separate petition, said that eight proposed laws passed by its Legislative Assembly were pending with the Governor, not for months, but years. Of the eight, three Bills were waiting for the Governor's word for over two years.

Punjab complained that seven of its Bills were stuck with the Governor since June, threatening to bring the administration to a "grinding halt".

The Supreme Court had to intervene in April for the Telangana Governor to clear Bills pending since September 2022, compelling advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the State, to submit that legislatures in Opposition-ruled States were at the mercy of the Governors, who had become a law unto themselves.

The process of granting assent

Article 200 of the Constitution covers the options before the Governor when a Bill passed by both Houses of the Legislature is presented to him. The first proviso to the Article says the Governor could either declare his assent to the Bill or withhold the assent if it is not a Money Bill or reserve the law for the consideration of the President if he thinks the Bill derogates from or endangers the power of judicial review of the High Court.

Tense relations: Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and CM Bhagwant Mann in Chandigarh in May. ANI

In case the Governor chooses to withhold assent, he should return the Bill "as soon as possible" with a message requesting the Legislative Assembly to reconsider the proposed law or any specified provisions or suggest amendments. The Assembly would reconsider and pass the Bill, and this time, the Governor should not withhold his assent. In short, the constitutional head of the State would bow to the considered decision of the elected representatives of the people.

Do Governors have discretion?

Governors did have a discretion to return Bills before the first proviso in the draft Article 175 (now Article 200). This was amended by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Though it was thought that the Governor's exercise of discretion would act as a "potential check on disruptive legislative tendencies" by States, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, while introducing the amended proviso, said "in a responsible government there can be no room for the Governor acting on discretion".

T. T. Krishnamachari, a Constituent Assembly member from Madras and later Finance Minister, approved of the amendment, saying "the Governor cannot act on his own, he can only act on the advice of the Ministry... When a Governor sends a Bill back for further consideration, he does so expressly on the advice of his Council of Ministers". Mr. Krishnamachari explained that if the Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly needs modification or has garnered adverse public opinion, the government uses the Governor to return the Bill to the Lower House as quickly as possible for re-legislation. The first proviso to Article 200 is thus a "saving clause" and retains the discretion over the fate of the Bill solely in the hands of the State Cabinet.

Article 163 makes it clear the Governor is not expected to act independently. The top court in the *Shamsher Singh case* verdict has held that as a formal head of the State a "Governor exercises all his powers and functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution on the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers save in spheres where the Governor is required by or under the Constitution to exercise his functions in his discretion." The assent or return of the Bill does not involve the discretion of individuals occupying the Governor's post.

By when should Bills be returned?

The first proviso of Article 200 says it should be "as soon as possible". The Constitution is silent on what exactly this phrase means. The Supreme Court has interpreted "as soon as possible" in the proviso to mean "as early as practicable without avoidable delay" in its 1972 judgment in *Durga Pada Ghosh versus State of West Bengal*. Justice (now retired) Rohinton F. Nariman, in his 2020 judgment in the *Keisham Megha Chandra Singh* case, said a 'reasonable time' would mean three months.

The States have urged the court to interpret the phrase in the proviso and fix a time limit by which Governors should assent or return a Bill. The 1988 Sarkaria Commission report on Centre-State relations had suggested consultation with the Governor while drafting the Bill and fixing a deadline for its disposal.

Kerala has asked the Supreme Court to form a seven-judge Bench to review a five-judge Bench judgment in the 1962 *Purushothaman Nambudiri versus State of Kerala* case which held the view that Article 200 did not provide "for a time limit within which the Governor..... should come to a decision on the Bill referred to him for his assent". The State said that, at the time, the court did not consider the possibility of Governors holding back Bills for an indefinite time.

THE GIST

- Tamil Nadu has accused Governor R.N. Ravi of toying with the citizens' mandate by sitting on the Bills by neither assenting nor returning them.
- Advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Telangana, has submitted that legislatures in Opposition-ruled States were at the mercy of the Governors, who had become a law unto themselves.
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar has said that "in a responsible government there can be no room for the Governor acting on discretion".

What are the challenges for the new Polish government?

How did the Law and Justice party-ruled government strain relations with the European Court of Justice? What were some of their unpopular policies, especially with regard to abortions?

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

The people of Poland handed a resounding majority to a multi-party Opposition coalition in the parliament's lower house (Sejm) on October 15, in a record 74.4% turnout. Voters also gave the combine a handsome majority in the upper house, or the Senate. The ruling ultra-conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party led coalition was defeated after its retrograde eight-year record in office.

What went wrong under PiS?

The hallmark of PiS rule has been to deploy its electoral majority to redefine the Polish nation in its own radically right-wing and populist image. Early in its tenure, the government rolled out generous welfare benefits, especially targeted at children and young mothers, although their long-term sustainability had been questioned by many economists. In 2016, the government piloted a contentious legislation to impose a total ban on abortions, forcing thousands on to the streets in protest. The public outcry pushed the government to back down, but only momentarily. In 2020, the constitutional tribunal set aside provisions of a 1993 law that allowed abortions in case of foetal disabilities, triggering further protests. The tribunal tightened the existing law by providing exemptions to the termination of pregnancies only involving rape, incest and risk to the mother's health. PiS has also attacked the LGBT community as an affront to the country's traditional family values.

The government also legislated sweeping provisions to empower politicians to control lower courts, the constitutional tribunal and the body that appoints judges. A brazen move in 2018 saw one-third of Supreme Court judges being forcibly retired. By the time the move was rescinded under pressure from the European Court of Justice (ECJ), the body had been packed with PiS loyalists. In 2021, the ECJ slapped a fine of one million euros per day when the government defied an order to revoke measures designed to withdraw immunity of judges from prosecution deemed inconvenient. Despite repeatedly falling fowl of Europe's top court, Poland's constitutional tribunal ruled, in a case brought by the Prime Minister Mateusz Morawieki, that parts of the EU law were not compatible with the constitution. The verdict was at variance with the principle of the primacy of EU law over national legislation and the binding nature of ECJ rulings on member states. Brussels dubbed the ruling a breach of European values and has withheld Warsaw's application for COVID-19 recovery money, worth billions of euros, and equally large regional development funds.

What happens now?

As the single largest party in the new parliament, PiS would be invited to form a government by President Andrzej Duda, but few expect it to muster a majority. The baton would then pass on to Donald Tusk, Poland's former prime minister and co-founder of the centre-right Civic Platform, the principal constituent in the victorious opposition civic coalition. The others in this grouping are the Third Way alliance of centrist and agrarian parties and the leftist Lewika. All of these parties are united in their pro-EU stance. The new government is not expected to be sworn in before December.

What are the government's priorities?

Foremost, the government under Mr. Tusk has to brace itself to navigate a political landscape that has been seriously vitiated by the policies of the past eight years. PiS commands a not inconsiderable vote share of 35% in the lower house of the incoming parliament. Conversely, tackling issues on the EU stage appears less daunting for the new government. To begin with, Mr. Tusk is a familiar face in Brussels, where he had until 2019 ably headed the EU Council, the forum that gathers the heads of governments of the 27-member bloc. Within days of the October elections, the putative premier was in Brussels to unblock billions of euros of Poland's EU development funds that were frozen consequent to Warsaw's conflict over compliance with the EU's rule of law procedures.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives at AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- The people of Poland handed a resounding majority to a multi-party Opposition coalition in the parliament's lower house (Sejm) on October 15, in a record 74.4% turnout.
- The ruling ultra-conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party led coalition was defeated after it spent the last eight years in office.
- The hallmark of PiS rule has been to deploy its electoral majority to redefine the Polish nation in its own radically rightwing and populist image.

City to get separate leopard task force

Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre's direction comes in the wake of repeated sightings of leopards in residential areas of Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed the Forest Department to set up a dedicated rapid response leopard task force for Bengaluru city. The direction comes in the wake of repeated sighting of leopards in the city's residential areas.

Mr. Khandre said that this year, due to lack of rain, wild animals are coming from the forest areas in search of food.

Leopards are being sighted on the outskirts of Bengaluru, especially those which are in hilly areas and those close to the periphery of forests.

Forest Department officials and police personnel move a cage carrying a leopard captured in Bengaluru recently. PTI

He has instructed the department to capture wild animals that stray into Bengaluru, and release them into the forests or send them to rehabilitation centres.

The Minister said that, in addition to the existing five elephant rapid task forces, two additional task forces, one each at Bannerghatta and Ramanagara, have been formed.

In hilly areas of Karnataka where presence of leopards and bears is more, he wants at least one task force to be formed for every three districts, and he wants them to be provided with advanced equipment.

Mr. Khandre directed to give proper training to the personnel of the leopard task force, and conduct mock drills to check the readiness of the personnel.

On November 1, a leopard which was on the prowl for five days was shot at by officials while attempting to capture it after the animal attacked an official.

Another leopard has been reportedly sighted in Chikkathogur, off NICE Road, by residents of the locality.

Leopard rescued from open well

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Forest Department officials, with the help of other people, rescued a seven-year-old leopard that had fallen into an open well in a farm at Maroor, near Moodbidri, in Dakshina Kannada on Monday morning. Moodbidri Range Forest Officer Hemagiri Angadi said passers-by noticed the leopard in the well and informed the department. The beast had been roaming in the area for the last few days. It might have fallen into the well while chasing dogs in the area, he said. The department personnel took nearly three hours to get the leopard into a cage, which was carefully lowered into the well. The cage was then lifted. The leopard will be released into the forest after examination, Mr. Angadi said.

About 21,000 new cases are registered in Kidwai every year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

About 21,000 new cases are registered every year at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, out of which over 50% are diagnosed as cancer cases. Overall, the premier cancer care centre in the State sees a footfall of around 3.6 lakh patients per annum.

This includes new and follow up cases.

Cancer awareness
The institute is organising a cancer awareness and detection camp in a tribal area of Bandipur on Tuesday to mark national cancer awareness day observed on November 7.

Kidwai director V. Lokesh said early intervention is most important in cancer care as the chance of survival is higher if diagnosed early.

"Unfortunately, most come to treatment institutes in an advanced stage, hence creating awareness among the public plays an important role in cancer prevention," he said.

Of around 14 lakh new cancer cases that are reported annually in the country, an estimated 87,500 new cases are from Karnataka. Among males, lung cancer continues to be the most predominant site of cancer constituting 9.6% of the total male cancers followed by cancers of the stomach and prostate (6.8%), esophagus (5.5%) and mouth (5.1%).

Breast cancer
Vijay C.R., Associate Professor in the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Kidwai said among females, cancer of the breast is the most common cancer constituting 30% of the total female cancers followed by cancer of the cervix (11%), ovary (7.2%), mouth (4.3%) and corpus uteri (4.2%).

Risk factors
Pointing out that tobacco usage contributes to the occurrence of more than one-third of cancers, Dr. Lokesh said in males it is found to have the highest age-adjusted rate per lakh population compared to the female population (that is 46 and 24). Other probable risk factors include diet, pollution, excessive alcohol consumption, lack of physical activity, occupational hazards and infections, he said.

"Most of the cancer patients seen at Kidwai are from the lower socio-economic strata with rural backgrounds, illiteracy and who have limited access to health facilities," he said.

Property tax payment: BBMP to send SMS reminders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will now send SMS, letters or notices to people with arrears or overdue property taxes as a reminder to pay the taxes timely.

According to BBMP, property tax is the primary and main source of revenue for BBMP and critical for functioning of the civic body and its service delivery. "Citizens can use the online link https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in for easy payment of property tax. For any questions, helpline number 1533 can be contacted," BBMP said in a statement.

BBMP aims to collect ₹4,790 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24 through property tax, including cess.

Show is back

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Sound and Light Show at the Mysuru palace which had been temporarily suspended owing to Dasara festivities will resume from Tuesday.

Direct flight service between Bengaluru and Munich

Munich is the fifth European city to have direct flight services to Bengaluru. AP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lufthansa started a direct flight service connecting Bengaluru and Munich in Germany on Saturday.

The thrice-a-week service will arrive the same day in Munich at 8.05 a.m. Lufthansa has deployed an Airbus A350-900, which is considered one of the most modern and fuel-efficient long-haul aircraft. Travellers can expect local cuisine.

Third Indian city
Alongside Delhi and Mumbai, Bengaluru is the third Indian city with a direct connection to Lufthansa's Munich hub.

Munich is the fifth European city to have direct flight services to Bengaluru after London, Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

Jeffrey James, Group Head of Communications - Asia Pacific at Lufthansa, said, "It is an incredibly exciting time to be in India right now. Having recently overtaken China as the most populous country in the world, India has also witnessed tremendous economic growth.

"It is now the 5th largest economy on the planet (replacing the United Kingdom) and is on track to be the 3rd largest economy by 2030. We have been invested in India for more than 90 years, and when looking for our first new APAC destination since the pandemic, Bengaluru was a natural fit."

Heavy rainfall in city, roads flooded

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Heavy rain pounded parts of the city from Monday evening, leaving many stranded on flooded roads, especially at night. Motorists had to navigate through inundated roads on their way back from work.

Heavy flooding was reported near Benniganahalli metro station, Ramamurthynagar, Shantinagar, Bannerghatta Road, Outer Ring Road, Mysuru Road, Hosur Road, Railway underpass, Seshadripuram, Koramangala, Indiranagar, Vijayanagar, Peenya along Tumkur Road, and various parts of Central Business District.

The traffic police were deployed to manage the slow-moving traffic.

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike control room received multiple complaints regarding flooding roads in various parts of the city, but officials said there was no heavy damage till 11.15 p.m. due to rain.

Heavy rain in the city led to traffic congestion in the Benniginahalli metro station area. Mohan Devaiah, a commuter, said, "Every time it rains, there's flooding near Benniganahalli metro station due to the metro construction. Only buses could go through the stretch; other vehicles were stuck."

According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Center's Varuna Mitra dashboard, Jakkur in Yelahanka Zone received 100 mm rainfall, Hampinagar in the South Zone received 73.50 mm and Nagapura in the West Zone received 72 mm rainfall till 11.30 pm.

BMTC to observe November as 'Road Safety Month'; training held for staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has decided to celebrate the month of November 2023 as 'Road Safety Month' and an order for the same has been issued by the Managing Director of the corporation, Sathyavathi G. to conduct intensive training workshop on accident-free and safe driving practices for Divisional Controllers of the six zones of the organisation – East, West, North, South, Central, North East Zones for the driving staff of all the units under their purview.

"On Monday, training workshops were conducted at six zones of the organisation at Hoskote Bus station, Challaghatta workshop, North Zone Puttenahalli depot, Central Zone depot 25 (HSR Layout), South Zone Kalasipalya bus station, etc. Training is imparted by Divisional Controllers, Divisional Traffic Officers, Divisional Mechanical Engineers, Depot Managers and Traffic Resource Persons," BMTC stated in a release.

BMTC has about 10,000 drivers and 1,800 drivers will be trained in accident-free and safe driving practices within 35 days.

Farmer killed in tiger attack in Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Bandipur, which is spread over 912 sq km, harbours 150 tigers – the second highest in the country

A farmer, in his mid-30s, was mauled to death by a tiger in the Moliyur range of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka on Monday.

The victim, who was in his mid-30s, was identified as Balaji Naik of Kaadabeguru in Saragur taluk. Parts of his lower limbs were found to be eaten by the tiger.

The distraught family members of the farmer and villagers were at the sight grieving over the death.

Second highest
Senior officials, including Bandipur Tiger Reserve director Ramesh Kumar, who reached the spot, on receiving information and were confronted by the enraged villagers.

Bandipur, which is spread over 912 sq km, harbours 150 tigers – the second highest in the country after Jim Corbet National Park in Uttarakhand as per the latest report by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) released in July this year.

Trap laid
Officials have laid camera traps and deployed camp elephants for combing the area.

Combing operation
It was only last week that a few Forest Department staff were roughed up in another range - Hediyala - by local villagers when a shepherd was injured in a tiger attack following which combing operations were launched in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru district.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, NOV. 07	
RISE 06:15	SET 17:52
RISE 01:18	SET 14:04
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 08	
RISE 06:15	SET 17:51
RISE 02:04	SET 14:39
THURSDAY, NOV. 09	
RISE 06:16	SET 17:51
RISE 02:49	SET 15:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	31	24
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Teaching Kannada in educational institutions remains a challenge

Private schools affiliated to Central boards (CBSE, CISCE) and following NCERT curriculum have not been teaching Kannada as the first or second language

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

While the State is celebrating 50 years of being named Karnataka, the implementation of teaching Kannada as a compulsory language continues to be a challenge. From legal hurdles to reservations of parents and schools, there are obstacles galore for Kannada to be taught as a compulsory language in all schools.

Amidst all this, the Karnataka government is ready to frame regulations for the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which was passed by both Houses during the previous BJP government's tenure. An expert committee has been constituted headed by Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj S. Thangadagi. "Our committee has already held three meetings and discussed how to formulate appropriate regulations according to the Act. The work of drafting the rules is in progress. After the rules are finalised, we will discuss with the Chief Minister and appropriate action will be taken to implement it," he told to *The Hindu*.

From legal hurdles to reservations from parents and schools, there are obstacles galore for Kannada to be taught as a compulsory language in all schools. FILE PHOTO

What is in the new act?
Many of the provisions that existed in the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, will continue to apply in the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022. According to the 2015 Act, "All students studying in classes I to X in all schools in the State will learn Kannada as first or second language in a phased manner." Along with this, provision for teaching the Kannada language in higher, technical and professional education and reservation in higher, technical and professional education for Kannada medium students have also been added in the new Act. After a major setback due to the Supreme Court's judgement against the Language Policy 1994, in which either the mother tongue of the student or Kannada was made a compulsory medium of instruction in all primary schools in 2014, the State government brought the Kannada Language Learning Act in 2015. This Act came into effect from the academic year 2016-17. However, private schools affiliated with the Central boards (CBSE, CISCE) and following NCERT curriculum have not been teaching Kannada as the first or second language.

The government has made provision to teach Kannada as a second or third language in the rules of the Karnataka Learning Language Act and the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Issue of No Objection Certificate and Control) Rules, 2022. It is only a provisional rule that these schools have used to teach Kannada as a third language.

Meanwhile, around 20 parents moved the High Court and questioned making of Kannada a compulsory language from classes I to X even in CBSE, CISCE schools in August, 2023. V.P. Niranjanaradhya, a development educationist, said negligence to teach Kannada as a first or second language in private schools of the central curriculum despite the government order is "inexcusable." "They misused the NOC rules and are teaching Kannada as a third language, which is a violation of the Act. The irresponsibility of the government and the officials of the education department has led to this," he said.

Ray of hope
Amidst of all these developments, there is a ray of hope. To promote multilingual school education, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has allowed schools to offer education in a regional language from pre-primary to class 12 recently. This initiative has been taken in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP). Meanwhile, in 2015, the State government amended the Right to Education Act-2009 (RTE) and the Bill was passed in both houses of the State legislature to make either the mother tongue of the student or Kannada the compulsory medium of instruction in all primary schools. The Bill was forwarded to the President of India in 2017 with the approval of the governor. However, the Union Ministry of Education, which is supposed to send this bill to the President of India with a recommendation, has not taken any action so far.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

CACHE

ISTOCKPHOTO

How the personal data of 815 million Indians got breached

An American cyber security company has said that the personally identifiable information of many Indian citizens, including Aadhaar numbers and passport details, were being sold on the dark web by a threat actor by the name of pwn0001

Nabeel Ahmed

The story so far:

On October 15, Resecurity, an American cyber security company, said that personally identifiable information of 815 million Indian citizens, including Aadhaar numbers and passport details, were being sold on the dark web. Threat actors were willing to sell the data for $80,000, the company said in a blog post. It further said that the data on sale was found to be valid. The threat actors selling the data claimed it was sourced from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which has been subjected to numerous cyber-attack attempts with 6,000 incidents being reported last year alone.

What is the nature of the Personally Identifiable Information?

Personally Identifiable Information or PII is information that when used alone or with other relevant data, can identify an individual. PII may be direct identifiers like passport information or quasi-identifiers that can be combined with other information to successfully recognise an individual. The data being sold on the dark web included one's Aadhaar number, a unique 12-digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Indian government. This data was being sold by a threat actor going by the name pwn0001.

However, another threat actor by the name of "Lucius" also claimed to have access to a more extensive array of PII data which included voter IDs and driving licence records.

How did such actors gain access to sensitive data?

Threat actors selling stolen data on the dark web declined to specify how they obtained the data without which any effort to identify the source of the data leak would be speculative. Lucius, the second threat actor found selling data online claimed to have access to a 1.8 terabyte data leak impacting an unnamed "India internal law enforcement agency". However, the claim is yet to be authenticated.

India's junior IT minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar shared that the country's Computer Emergency Response Team is investigating reports of the data leak, and that the government is still working on moving massive amounts of data, including legacy data collected over the past decades, to a safe storage. However, he did not confirm or comment on the size of the alleged leak.

Data samples observed by researchers contain multiple references to UIDAI and Aadhaar cards, as well as voter ID cards. It is also possible that threat actors successfully breached a third-party aggregating these details.

How secure is our PII data?

While the government of India has often denied allegations of biometric data leak from Aadhaar in the past, Mr. Chandrasekhar said the government ecosystem will take time to transition to a bullet proof set-up, one which manages data and keeps it in a safe and responsible manner. He further said that Aadhaar data leaks were also reported in 2018, 2019, and 2022, with three instances of large-scale leaks being reported, including one in which farmer's data stored on the PM Kisan website was made available on the dark web.

Earlier this year, reports emerged that a bot on the messaging platform Telegram was returning personal data of Indian citizens who registered with the COVID-19 vaccine intelligence network (CoWIN) portal.

At the time, the Health Ministry denied reports of a data breach and said that allegations were "mischievous in nature and that CERT-In was reviewing the existing security infrastructure of the portal."

However, UIDAI on its website says all Aadhaar holders' data is safe and secure in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) of UIDAI and that they have never been breached in all its years of existence. It further adds that UIDAI uses advanced security technologies to keep data safe and keeps upgrading them to meet emerging security threats and challenges.

What are the threats arising from the leaked information?

India being one of the fastest growing economies of the world, ranked fourth globally in all malware detection in the first half of 2023, according to a survey from Resecurity. A separate vendor survey of 200 Indian IT decision makers published in September produced similar findings where 45% of Indian businesses said they experienced more than a 50% rise in disruptive cyberattacks last year. The report also found that 67% of Indian government and essential services organisations experienced over a 50% increase in disruptive cyberattacks.

The unrest in West Asia and increase in attacks by threat actors capitalising on the chaos exposed personally identifiable data significantly, increasing the risk of digital identity theft. Threat actors leverage stolen identity information to commit online-banking theft, tax frauds, and other cyber-enabled financial crimes.

A significant spike in incidents involving Aadhaar IDs and their leakage on underground cybercriminal forums by threat actors are looking to harm Indian national and residents, Resecurity said in a blog post.

What can users do to safeguard their personal information?

Users should try to ascertain if their information was leaked in the data leak. Users should also be alert and approach emails for unknown sources with caution as stolen information may be used to target users in phishing campaigns.

It is also advised to change existing user IDs and passwords to ensure that stolen data cannot be used for launching brute force attacks.

Users should also implement two-factor authentication for all their accounts and inform the concerned authorities in case they notice any suspicious activity in their online accounts.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Kamal Haasan an actor, filmmaker, screenwriter, television presenter and politician was born on November 7, 1954. A quiz on the actor and his movies

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1
Which Kamal Haasan starrer, co-produced by him and directed by cinematographer P.C.Sreeram, was the first Indian film to use Dolby Stereo surround SR technology and was India's official entry for the 68th Academy Awards under the category Best Foreign Language Film.

QUESTION 2
Kamal Haasan's film *Indian* featured him in a dual role as a father and a son. What is the name of the character he played in the film, who was an ex-serviceman fighting against corruption?

QUESTION 3
In the movie *Hey Ram*, Kamal Haasan portrayed the character Saketh Ram who witnesses historical events during India's struggle for independence. Which filmmaker directed this film?

QUESTION 4
Which movie marked the directorial debut of Kamal Haasan?

QUESTION 5
For which movie did Kamal Haasan receive the President's Medal for the Best Child Artist?

Visual question:
This director actor combo have reunited after 3.5 decades and are currently working on a movie, *Thug Life*. What was the name of the movie the duo worked in before this? FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The distinction shared by Bill Bradley and Manu Ginobili. **Ans: They are the only two players who have won an Euroleague championship, Olympic gold and at least one NBA championship with their respective teams**
2. Former Warriors great Nate Thurmond achieved this feat first. **Ans: Quadruple double (double digit stats – 10 or more – in any four of these categories: points, rebounds, assists, blocks, steals)**
3. Former Utah Jazz point guard John Stockton has registered 15,806 assists and 3,265 of this. **Ans: Steals**
4. This player holds the all time record of playing 1,192 games without a break. **Ans: A.C. Green**
5. This player from the Boston Celtics holds the next best record of winning the most NBA championships. This player has the highest number for anyone who has not represented the Celtics. **Ans: Sam Jones; Robert Horry**
Visual: Wilt Chamberlain represented this team when he scored 100 points. This was the opponent. **Ans: Philadelphia Warriors; New York Knicks**
Early Bird: KN Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. M. Vasanth Shyam Sundar, Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi, wants to know whether we watch the Mahabharata in TV or on TV".

"It is on TV.

There was a nice programme on TV.

Some of the programmes on TV are very bad."

"Sir. Mr. K. V. Jayachandran wants to know the meaning of 'praxis'."

" 'Praxis' means 'accepted practice', 'custom'.

Karl Marx said that only in praxis could problems be solved.

'Praxis' is a formal word."

"Sir, Mr. A. H. Subramanian wants to know the meaning of the word 'sacrosanct'."

"It means 'too holy or important to be allowed to suffer any harm or disrespect'.

He considers his ideas sacrosanct. He won't tolerate criticism of his ideas.

He considers his study sacrosanct."

"Sir, Miss Deepika and Miss Padmasini, II year B.Tech, Regional Engineering College, Warangal, want to know the difference between 'person' and 'guy'."

"A guy is a man or a boy. A person can be male or female. 'Guy' is more frequently used in American English. 'Fellow', 'chap' are used in British English instead of 'guy'. 'Guy' is used in the plural to address a group of people, male or female.

You guys, come over here.

Come on guys, let's begin.

'To guy' means 'to make fun of', 'ridicule'.

They guyed her for her outlandish dress.

In British English, 'to give the guy to someone' means to 'run away from', 'to give the slip'.

He gave the guy to the police."

"Sir, Ms. K. Sinha, Calcutta, wants to know the meaning of 'get one's act together'."

"It means 'to become organised', 'to succeed in a field'.

You must get your act together.

They are not able to get their act together."

"Sir, Mr. R. Venkataraman wants to know whether the sentence, 'This will obviate the lacuna' is correct."

" 'Obviate' means 'to clear away, get rid of, get round, neutralise (danger, inconvenience, etc.)'. 'Obviate' is a highly formal word.

His decision obviates the need to strike work.

A lacuna is an empty space where something is missing. You don't obviate a lacuna. You fill it."

"Sir, Ms. Bhuvana R. Iyer, Gulbarga, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'phoenix'."

"A 'phoenix' is 'an imaginary bird of ancient times believed to live for 500 years and then burn itself and be born again from the ashes'.

When he lost in the last election, we thought he was finished. But he has risen like the phoenix from the ashes.

'Ph' is pronounced 'f', 'ae' is pronounced like 'ee' in 'feel'; 'nix' rhyme with 'picks'. The stress is on the first syllable."

Published in The Hindu on November 28, 1989.

Word of the day

Swelter:
be uncomfortably hot; excrete perspiration through the pores in the skin

Synonyms: sweat, perspire

Usage: *The kids were sweltering in their uniforms.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/swelterpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈswɛl.tə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Union comes out against decision to cut down scholarship to children of construction workers

Minister points to massive rise in number of bogus cards and says the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board received 13 lakh applications for scholarship alone this time

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The distribution of student scholarships to children of construction workers by the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board has become a bone of contention with the board cutting the scholarship by about 75% in most cases.

While the workers' union is up in arms against the decision, the State government has insisted that it is in line with the prevailing scholarships given by various government departments. Of the 13 lakh applications received for scholarship for 2022-23, 7 lakh beneficiaries have been identified as eligible that would cost the board roughly ₹200 crore.

The order issued on October 30 has led to the unions announcing a strike from November 28 in Bengaluru. There are about 44 lakh registered cardholders and the board collects about ₹1,000 crore annually as cess. The current corpus of the board is about ₹7,000 crore.

"The revision has been unilateral and arbitrary. The scholarship that has seen an upward revision since 2007 has for the first time been cut drastically," K. Mahantesh, general secretary of Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Federation, told *The Hindu*.

He said that the previous revision that came around the pandemic time has to be seen in the light of distress among construction workers, who saw employment avenues dwindling due to demonetisaton, GST introduction and COVID-19.

From 3 lakh to 13 lakh

However, Labour Minister Santosh Lad said that while the maximum applications received annually for all the schemes did not exceed three lakh in the past, the board received 13 lakh applications for scholarship alone this time. "This is due to rampant bogus cards that were created for ineligible people during the three-year BJP rule. The number of cardholders reached 45 lakh. We have found professors and landlords having construction worker cards."

He also said scholarship should be uniform across departments. "The amount was raised unscientifically. It has to be on a par with scholarships given in other departments."

The board after verification has identified 7 lakh beneficiaries and weeded out 6 lakh applications.

The Minister said that the annual cess collection that is around ₹ 1,000 crore should also be considered. "On an average if ₹10,000 each is given to 7 lakh students, it would be about ₹700 crore. There are 14 programmes that is run by the board. How can we manage them?" he asked. Mr. Lad also pointed out that government infrastructure is available for primary, secondary and high school education free of cost.

Acknowledging the menace of bogus cardholders, Mr. Mahantesh said that the government has to develop a mechanism to ensure genuine beneficiaries receive the scholarship.

He said, "Genuine workers did not create bogus card problem. Our fear is many will miss out in the process as construction work is seasonal in many cases. For example, in Kodagu, people work in both construction sites as well as plantations. As per law, worker should have worked for three months in a year at a construction site."

Distress among workers

Mr. Mahantesh said that the numbers have also increased due to distress among construction workers and inefficient disbursal of scholarship for backward classes during BJP regime.

On the argument of free education in government schools, Mr. Mahantesh said that in many cases parents try to send their children to private schools as government schools lack facilities.

Annual scholarship

Course	Existing	Revised
B.E./B.Tech	₹50,000	₹10,000
Degree	₹25,000	₹6,000
PG	₹35,000	₹10,000
Diploma	₹20,000	₹4,600
BSc (Nursing)	₹40,000	₹10,000
MBBS	₹60,000	₹11,000
Central courses	Full fee	₹11,000
Classes 1 to 5	₹5,000	₹1,100
Classes 6 & 7	₹8,000	₹1,250
Class 8	₹8,000	₹1,350
Classes 9 & 10	₹12,000	₹3,000
PU	₹15,000	₹4,600

FILE PHOTO

INBRIEF

Union Minister alleges injustice to Scheduled Castes

The Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanswamy on Monday said that the complaints regarding injustice to the Scheduled Castes in approval of Bagair Hukum land will be transferred to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes for investigation. "There is a need for an inquiry into the disposal of applications submitted under form 50 and form 53," he told presspersons here on Monday.

Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar award conferred on HDD

The Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar award, Kannada Sahitya Parishat's endowment award, was conferred on the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in Bengaluru on Monday.

The award was conferred by former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah at the residence of the former Prime Minister as the latter could not make it to the function venue due to his ill health. "I am happy that the Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar award has been conferred on Mr. Gowda, who is the only Prime Minister from Karnataka," the former Chief Justice said.

Electricity situation back to normal, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the average demand for power has increased by 43% in 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in 2022, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the electricity situation in Karnataka has returned to normal after supply to outside the State was prohibited. A decision has been taken to supply power for seven hours to IP sets of farmers.

"Power consumption has increased by 43% in 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Demand in October was 15,978 MW," he said after a review meeting of the Energy Department.

Power consumption in agriculture sector had seen an increase in the range of 55% to 119%. The increase in power consumption in other sectors ranges from 9% to 14%. "The higher demand and consumption is due to deficient rainfall, usage of irrigation pumpsets before the normal time, and post-Covid-19 economic growth," the Chief Minister said. After the last review meeting of the department, power generation in Raichur and Ballari thermal plants had increased while the State simultaneously purchased power from Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. "Whatever we get now, we will return it to them after June," he said. He also said that the government was not purchasing power from the private parties.

"By invoking Section 11 that prohibits supply of power to other States (from Karnataka), the State is getting to utilise the power generated here So, the power position in the State has stabilised. The nodal officers are constantly observing the power position in the State," he said.

Meanwhile, power generation has increased by 2,500 MW to 3,000 MW as thermal units have started generating more. And as sugarcane crushing season had commenced, about 450 MW is being generated through co-generation.

To farmers

Stating that the Escoms will supply five to seven hours of power, depending on the needs of farmers in the State, Mr. Siddaramaiah estimated that to supply seven hours of power constantly to IP sets, Karnataka would require about 600 MW/hour or about 14 million units per day. "It is estimated that about ₹1,500 crore is needed, which will be raised through grants, savings and re-allocation," he said.

State govt. to waive arrears

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday announced that ₹389.96 crore pending arrears from Bhagya Jyothi, Kuteera Jyothi and Amrutha Jyothi will be waived off to ensure that those people also get the benefits of Gruha Jyothi scheme. He said that while 18 units had been fixed for the three schemes, it had been hiked to 40 units during his earlier tenure. Now the free quota has been fixed to 58 units for the beneficiaries and brought under Gruha Jyothi.

HC directs State govt. to pay ₹7.25 per unit to JSW Energy for supplying surplus power

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday directed the State government, as an interim arrangement, to pay JSW Energy Ltd., at a rate of ₹7.25 per KWh (Ex-Bus) instead of ₹4.86 per KWh (Ex-Bus) fixed by the State government on October 16, 2023, for supplying surplus power to the State grid from company's Imported Coal Based Power Plant (ICBPP) in Karnataka.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while disposing of an appeal filed by the company against the October 27 order of the single judge, who had asked the company to submit representation to the State government to pay electricity charges on a par with the Power Exchange Rate as existed on October 16, 2023.

Interim arrangement

The Bench said that the interim arrangement of making payment at ₹7.25 per unit would be in place only till the outcome of the decision by the single judge on company's petition of challenging the government's October 16 communication.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the State government to submit its reply to company's pending petition by November 10 and requested the single judge to decide on the petition within a week from November 10.

The State government under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003, had on October 16 issued a communication directing all the power generators in Karnataka to operate and maintain the concerned generating stations to maximum exportable capacity and supply all the electricity generated to the State grid subject to certain conditions, and one of the conditions stipulated was that the power generators would be paid at ₹4.86 per unit provisionally subject to the proceedings before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission.

What company questioned

However, the company had questioned the State government's authority to issue such a communication when the Central government way back on February 20, 2023, had issued a direction under Section 11 of the Electricity Act stipulating, amongst others, that all ICBPPs should supply power to the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) holders and any surplus power left thereafter, or any power for which there is no PPA, should be sold through the Power Exchanges.

CM hits back at Modi for his comments on State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the continuation of the Chief Minister in Karnataka and Congress bringing development to a standstill as "a bundle of lies", Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that Mr. Modi was making hollow allegations.

"Wherever he has campaigned, the BJP has lost. The BJP has not appointed Leader of Opposition yet in Karnataka. This shows their bankruptcy," the Chief Minister told presspersons here.

His reaction came to Mr. Modi's speech in Madhya Pradesh where he is campaigning for the Assembly polls.

Expressing doubts about the continuation of Mr. Siddaramaiah in his post due to infighting, the Prime Minister had said that the Congress had brought development activities in Karnataka to a standstill.

Responding to allegations of corruption made by Mr. Modi, the Chief Minister reminded that it was BJP government that had faced "40%" kickback allegations.

> Wherever he has campaigned, the BJP has lost. The BJP has not appointed Leader of Opposition yet in Karnataka. This shows their bankruptcy.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

"Our government is probing it. As the Prime Minister, should he not talk about it too? All the investigation agencies are under the Centre. Without evidence, such allegations should not be made."

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Centre was meting out a step-motherly treatment towards Karnataka by not releasing drought relief. "Mr. Modi had said that five guarantees cannot be implemented. However, we have shown it is possible. It does not augur well for the Prime Minister to make such allegations and we did not expect this."

He also said that they would welcome those coming to the Congress by supporting the party's leadership, and that many legislators from BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) would join the party.

Bring pressure on govt. to implement internal reservation, says Muniyappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stirring up the internal reservation issue, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Monday urged the Madiga community leaders to bring pressure on the government to clear the A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation in the Cabinet and place it before the legislature.

"There is a need for intense agitation for the implementation of the Sadashiva Commission recommendation. Lay siege to your legislator's home. Do not allow them to hold programmes. As a Minister I am telling you this," he said in his address at the meeting of leaders of Karnataka Adijambava Cultural Committee.

He said, "In the next 15 days, 100 persons should go to the legislator's home and 1,000 people should approach the district in-charge Minister with petition seeking implementation of the report. This has to happen before the legislature session commences on December 4." Stating that the Congress had promised to implement the commission report both in the election manifesto and Aikyata Samavesha in Chitradurga, the Minister said that Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister are in favour of implementing it.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka
Phone No: 08472-256767, Fax No: 08472-227527, hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/286/2023-24/4844 Date:06.11.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **"Supply of Printed Practice Papers for improvements towards 10th Standard Results for the Students"** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. **EMD is Rs.3,85,000/-**

Event & Date

1) Date of publishing the RFP Document : **06.11.2023**, 2) Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement Portal : **15.11.2023 up to 17.00 hrs**, 3) Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting (Online) : **16.11.2023 at 11.30 hrs**, 4) Last date and time for submission of Proposal (Proposal Due Date) : **21.11.2023 upto 16:00 hrs**, 5) Date and time for opening of Technical Proposal : **22.11.2023 at 16:30 hrs**, 6) Date and time for opening of Financial Proposal : **23.11.2023 at 17:00 hrs**

Sd/- Deputy Secretary
Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/443/KSMC&A/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
LOWER CAUVERY BASIN CIRCLE, THANJAVUR.
E- TENDER NOTICE
FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM – ITEM RATE CONTRACT (Two cover system)
e- Tender Notice No.2/2023-2024/LCBC -TNJ./dated: 06.11.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited from the registered, experienced in irrigation projects and eligible contractors by the Special Chief Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur for the following works.

Date and Time of Tender documents available	:	From **16.11.2023, 11.00 AM** Onwards (5 Works)
Submission of Tenders	:	**19.12.2023** Upto **11.00 AM** (1 Work) **30.11.2023** Upto 1**1.00 AM** (4 Works)
Date and Time of Opening	:	**20.12.2023, 11.30 AM** Onwards (1 Work) **01.12.2023, 11.30 AM** Onwards (4 Works)
Place of Opening of Tenders	:	O/o the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur-613 001
No. of works	:	5 Nos. (Five), Item Rate - Two Cover System
Approximate Value of Work	:	**Rs.4381.60 Lakhs**

Tender documents will be available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** from **16.11.2023** and it can be downloaded free of cost as mentioned above. Remittance of EMD and other details can also be available from the above and in the office of the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur.

Any Corrections / Corrigendum / Extension, if any will be issued in the above web site only.

Special Chief Engineer, WRD.,
Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur

DIPR/ 5899 /TENDER/2023

Reliability key to making public transportion a success, says study

If commuters know that a bus always reaches on time at a particular stop on a route every day, there is a reliability boost, even if the frequency of buses is low on that route, says a research finding

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

A large number of women working in garment units wait to travel on BMTC buses at Muthurayanagar cross bus stop on Mysuru Road.

Is solving Bengaluru's congestion crisis an intractable puzzle, tougher than rocket science? Not really. Every sustainable mobility expert will point at one clear solution, screaming out for attention and financial outreach: Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses. Double their numbers, make them reliable, comfortable, accessible, and watch a dramatic decongestion.

Now, for any government genuinely keen on resolving the issue, this should be a low-hanging fruit. For years, multiple governments were told how to tackle the public transport problem smartly with technology, multi-agency coordination and focused funding. The latest is a research booklet centred on BMTC planning and operations, developed by the Indian Institute of Science's Centre for Infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation and Urban Planning (CiSTUP).

Reliability

A key finding by the CiSTUP team is reliability. If commuters know that a bus always reaches on time at a particular stop on a route every day, there is a reliability boost. Even if the frequency of BMTC buses is low on that route, ridership of that "predictable" bus will increase.

This is precisely what the research team means when it states: "On medium to high-frequency routes, BMTC will gain more ridership and passenger kilometres by increasing service reliability than increasing service frequency." The team now wants to devise a method to forecast bus ridership changes with improvements in last-mile connectivity, price changes, metro expansion and pricing of other commute modes.

The BMTC, as its Managing Director Sathyavathi G. put it, might have tied up with IISc to devise implementable solutions. But the big task is to follow through. As mobility activist Sathya Sankaran asks, "How is BMTC implementing the findings in different routes? Take each of the suggestions and implement them on one chosen route.

For instance, the research says the Bus Priority Lane has led to a 4-28% improvement. So make it work.

If the BMTC app is not performing well as the study indicates, think about making it better."

Open data, innovate

He says there is a lot of capacity in research institutions such as CiSTUP to take BMTC to the next well. "But, in the last decade, the BMTC has not innovated much. They tried an app, but it could have been done in so many different ways. They could have allowed many others interested in building that app, giving their data to be used. Even now, their data is closed and is shared only with these institutions," he explains.

"Unlike politicians and bureaucrats, the power of the bus is well understood by the scientific community. Capital investment and infrastructure needs for buses are minimal. Bus routes can be dynamically adjusted based on demand, and overall return on investment is considerably higher for bus than any other form of mass transport," notes Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

Metro or suburban trains cannot be successful without the bus playing a vital role as a first and last-mile solution

However, he points out, "There is a stigma attached to buses in our society. It is seen as a poor person's transport and not meant for those who 'made it' in life. Changing perceptions about buses is critical for saving our cities from collapsing under their own weight as the number of personal vehicles is exploding year after year."

Metro or suburban trains cannot be successful without the bus playing a vital role as a first and last-mile solution.

"Thanks to the stupendous success of the Shakti scheme, the Karnataka government is finally acknowledging the need for more buses and staff. BMTC must (consider all these recommendations by CiSTUP) modernise their operations, open up data to enable innovation and integrate with other modes of transport and engage citizens in a constructive manner," Srinivas says.

Metro can coexist

A debatable finding of the CiSTUP report is this: "Bus routes with high overlap with metro lines lose riders to metro." The question is not about the solution offered, that "feeder services and routes with some overlap with Metro lines can help both BMTC and Metro." The key issues are affordability and access, as Shaheen Shasa from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike points out.

"There are two things with the metro," she explains. "One, the metro is more expensive than the bus. Second, for short-distance trips, it is also too much of an effort to get into and out of the Metro system and walk a long way to the platform. It is not as simple as walking to the bus stop. Metro is not going to be a solution for everyone."

Shaheen's point is this: "Even on routes where the metro and the BMTC coexist, there is still a case to continue the bus service routes. There is a difference in the people using it both in terms of social strata and travel distance. Both need to be continued, they don't overlap or substitute each other."

Last-mile options

Connecting the last mile from home/workplace to the bus stop is a critical issue, irrespective of the commuter's social strata. The report highlights this point as well. But Shaheen offers another perspective: "Many walk to cover the last mile. If it is too much, they are also forced to take the auto. So even if they can't afford it, they have to spend as they have to get to work or school."

No city-wide comprehensive study has been conducted to understand how widespread the problem is.

"But generally, it is an across-the-board issue. People have to walk for 2-3 km, particularly in many areas in the periphery. The problem is there even in inner areas such as L.B. Shastri Nagar, Kasavanahalli, Jail Road on the Sarjapur Roadside," she says.

The last-mile issue only gets worse in areas that branch out of the Outer Ring Road (ORR). BMTC has adequate service along the road, but it thins out considerably farther away. There is a clear data gap on how patchy the services are. "BMTC does not have a full-scale feeder concept right now. Only a detailed study can tell whether it should go for a hub-and-spoke model, a trunk feeder network or a mix of these in different areas. The sampling has to represent all parts of the city served by BMTC."

Bus bunching is another issue highlighted by the CiSTUP report. This occurs when two or more buses, originally scheduled with proper headway, end up running on the same route simultaneously. This happens typically due to one bus being unable to adhere to its schedule. "This uncertainty in transit time leads to delayed arrivals at stops, longer passenger wait times and overcrowded buses," the report states.

To address this issue, bus-holding is the most commonly adopted methodology. Under this method, the arrival of buses at control points is delayed. The duration of the bus wait is regulated based on the position of other buses and current traffic conditions. The CiSTUP team used recurrent neural networks to boost the accuracy of Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) predictions of the buses.

The team's experiments on BMTC route 276 showed that the application of Machine Learning (ML) methods enhances ETA predictions, and bus-holding can prove effective in reducing bus-bunching.

Pilot programme

To scale up, CiSTUP has proposed to conduct comprehensive pilot programmes on a single route for several weeks to quantify the benefits and investigate their impact on ridership. Sathya Sankaran reiterates that BMTC should give them the bus to see ridership patterns. "How else will you innovate if you don't participate? They should be telling, take the route and show us how it is done. The routes should be available for experimentation. Across the world, that is how it works," he says.

Ninasam Tirugata comes to Bengaluru with two new plays

This year, the well-known theatre institute is travelling with its two new plays — *Aa Laya, Ee Laya* and *Huliya Neralu*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

(Above and right) A scene from the play *Aa Laya, Ee Laya*.

A scene from *Huliya Neralu*.

Starting in 1985 and composed mainly of the alumni of Ninasam Theatre Institute, Heggodu, *Ninasam Tirugata* is a wandering theatre troupe which takes new productions to different parts of Karnataka every year. This year, the eminent theatre institute is travelling with its two new plays – *Aa Laya, Ee Laya* and *Huliya Neralu*, which will have its Bengaluru premiere at Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar on November 7 and 8.

Backdrop of apartheid

Aa Laya, Ee Laya directed by H.K. Shwetarani, is based on the play *Rhythm of Violence* written by Louie Nakosi, adapted to Kannada by Nataraj Honnavali. The complex dynamics of oppression and resistance are the core of the play as it is set against the backdrop of apartheid-era South Africa.

The play unravels the story of a group of Individuals who are from diverse backgrounds and are entangled in a web of racial discrimination, violence, and social injustice.

Through powerful dialogues, vivid characters, and symbolic imagery the play explores the psychological and emotional impact of living under an oppressive regime.

Huliya Neralu directed by K.G. Krishnamurthy and written by Chandrashekara Kambara metaphorically explores the interconnected themes of colonialism, capitalism, and existential crisis in the pretext of hunting a tiger. The play takes a look at what it means to see the glaring truth by evading the fake realities.

Finding a parent

The central character, Ramagonda, sets out to discover his real father and the play converts this simple process of finding one's parents into an existential struggle to unravel the complicated meaning of truth. The play constructs imagery of a fairytale world full of superhumans where souls interchange and humans become animated objects. The play serves as a thought-provoking commentary on the contemporary crisis especially when countries across the globe talk about the dictatorship and the origin and the identity of their citizens.

Tickets for both shows – at 7:30 p.m. on both the days – are available on BookMyShow and the Ranga Shankara box-office.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 7, 1973

Call for Hard Work to Develop Karnataka

Bangalore, Nov. 7: The change in the name of the State into Karnataka could become significant only if it built up an enthusiasm for hard work., stressed Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, Governor of Karnataka, here today.

The Governor, who was presiding over a function got up by the Kannada Mitra Vrinda of the Bangalore Transport Service Division of the State Road Transport Corporation to honour Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, Chief Minister, and Mr. S. Nijalingappa and Mr. K. Hanumanthaiah, both former Chief Ministers, said it imposed upon them an obligation to bring the State forward and it was their duty to prove worthy of the great heritage of Karnataka.

Mr. Nijalingappa stressedd the need to use the rich natural resources of the State more and more by creating opportunities to the people. He urged both the Union and State Governments to give top priority for maximum use of irrigation and power potential as these two would lay the firm foundation for the economic growth of the nation. He felt that indiscriminate distribution of land would be unwise and emphasised the need to develop forest wealth.

Mr. K. Hanumanthaiah called for the development of both natural resources and dharma to bring about prosperity to Karnataka. He said if the administration was impartial and efficient there would be no room for any dissatisfaction. He underlined the importance of selecting proper men as legislators and Ministers. Referring to Belgaum, he said it was a dead issue and was emphatic that Belgaum would never go to Maharashtra. The Prime Minister had no intention at all to do injustice to Karnataka, he added. Mr. Devaraj Urs concurred with Mr. Nijalingappa that industries, irrigation and power should be developed.

CITYBEATS

Winning draw

This year, Khandani Rajdhani, is hosting a lucky draw titled Diwali Delights. The draw, which gives participants a chance to win a gold coin, will go on till November 11. There is a special menu for the festival featuring a range of sweet and spicy delicacies. From *kesari shrikhand* and *shakarpara* to *khajoor ni pattice* and *mirch vada chaat*, they have a lot going on.

Menu available at all Khandani Rajdhani outlets till November 15.

Festive delights

Enjoy dishes such as the Bangkok street-style noodle bowl, Burmese khao suey and crispy fried honey wonton and more for Deepavali this year, courtesy a great menu by Chowman. Avail of festive offers at all Chowman outlets and their app. Chowman's Deepavali special menu and offer is valid from November 10-15.

Price for two start from ₹1000. Call 18008902150 for details.

Different take

Magnolia Bakery has crafted special Deepavali hampers this year. Available both in-store and online, these hampers include a selection of cookies, bars, pies, cheesecakes and biscotti. The option to customise these hampers from Magnolia's range of desserts is also available.

Prices start from ₹1700.

A spectrum begins to emerge

Fresh off her performance at the Bollywood Music Project, Bengaluru-based artiste Sahana Naresh talks about her latest single and more...

Anurag Tagat

A whole new vibe Sahana Naresh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Presently on the radio airwaves (the ones that support independent music, anyway) and streaming platforms everywhere, Chennai-origin, Bengaluru-based singer-songwriter Sahana Naresh has a curiously titled new song, 'Bhoopali Beginnings'.

The artiste explains that it marks the start of a journey where she feels uninhibited when it comes to blending her influences of Indian classical with the rock and pop artistes she also grew up listening to – from Norah Jones and The Strokes, to Beatles and Regina Spektor. AR Rahman also features in the mix for Sahana, who is a classically trained vocalist under Vidwan Aditi Upadhya; she chose *raag bhoopali* as one of her "spectrum of influences".

She credits her parents playing music at all times at home using the erstwhile WorldSpace Satellite Radio as the formation of such a spectrum of listening habits – from Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Vidushi Sudha Ragunathan to The Beatles and others. Now, with eight years of classical training, she credits her guru for imparting "the importance of close observation, dedicated practice and approaching my craft with love and patience".

She began releasing music in 2021 with the single 'Milky Hands' and followed it up with her EP, *Shore Out Of Reach* the same year. The artiste, however, says that she has been meaning to release her own music for the past 10 years now. A significant mentor who worked with her to realise these goals was Keshavara aka Keshav Purushotham, who is also her cousin and based out of Germany. Keshavara lends a wavy, reverb-heavy indie pop/rock quality to 'Bhoopali Beginnings', one among several of Sahana's past releases.

Artiste Sahana Naresh whose music style encompasses a range of genres will play in Bengaluru on December 9

She says about her cousin, "I would record several ideas on voice notes but I didn't have the courage to release them. When my daughter Tara was born in 2019, Keshav and my aunt came to visit and he happened to hear me play 'Milky Hands', the song I wrote for my daughter. That was a game changing moment for me musically because he gave me the nudge I needed to start releasing my own music. He offered to produce the track for me and walked me through the whole release process end to end."

Since the debut release, Sahana and Keshavara have met about a twice a year to work out song ideas between themselves, creating demos, refining lyrics and experimenting with melodies. Working remotely as well as in-person, Sahana's EP *Shore Out of Reach* was also an outcome of these sessions.

While she has often found herself playing cautious with genres and labels – something that she gets past with 'Bhoopali Beginnings' – there was her EDM fusion single 'Vaari Vaari' with producer Nirmit Shah released earlier this year that also widened her range. "My love for experimenting with these beautiful *raags* combined with my passion for creating vibrant indie-pop melodies is outweighing my fear of how these tracks are going to be received," Sahana says.

She took 'Vaari Vaari' live at her recent festival performance at Bollywood Music Project in Mumbai on November 4. On the same lineup as the likes of Benny Dayal, Nucleya, Asees Kaur and more, Sahana was selected after being part of performing at the music conference All About Music's showcase sets earlier this year.

She looks back at the performance and says, "The event was energy personified. Organisers Create and Collab did a great job organising the festival and it was an absolute pleasure performing there. I performed a funk-inspired Bollywood set along with some of my originals."

Within Bengaluru, the artiste feels that while it is competitive, there has been a growing and appreciative audience. It has not been without its challenges and Sahana is open about the way things stand for an Indian independent artiste right now. "Breaking through to land a performance in some of the larger venues and festivals usually involves knowing the 'right' people with workable budgets, having a well-connected manager pitching your music, overcoming hurdles of data analytics-based decisions such as number of streams, followers etc. rather than primarily their talent which can lead to a sense of helplessness in up-and-coming artists. Truth be told, I am still learning to navigate this competitive scene but there are definitely some rainbows on the horizon."

That said, Sahana will perform next in Bengaluru on December 9. "I'm collaborating with Nirmit Shah and Keshavara on indie-fusion singles slated for release early next year and a special secret project which I will be announcing on Instagram shortly. I am excited to see where this new sound, inspired by my Indian classical influences takes me," she says.

Hear 'Bhoopali Beginnings' on linktr.ee/sahananaresh

Tales from the margins

Parshathy J Nath

Goddesses chant in gibberish, share a smoke with their subjects and fight with them over blessings as the Daklas, a community of rootless nomads, spread their mats onstage to perform before us. A boy picks up a currency note with his eyelid, while a father and his two sons' journey to a mythical Lake of Alcohol and Land of Meat.

The play within a play format has a storytelling quality to it, the actors start their performance with the beats of the tamte, the soundscape that defines their community. Through movements and a sing-song presentation of the story, the father and sons journey through the landscape of caste and exploitation.

Daklakatha Devikavya is the epic reimagined by a community. It has been adapted from the writings of renowned Kannada poet and Dalit rights activist and thinker KB Siddaiah by Lakshman KP, the director, playwright and music composer of this production. The play is being applauded for the authenticity of its strong Dalit voice and the new interventions in form.

With 30 shows in prestigious stages such as the Ranga Shankara festival, ITFOK Kerala, META 2023, Kadal Fest and the upcoming Serendipity Festival, the play is being seen as one of the most politically and aesthetically exciting works in contemporary Indian theatre this year.

Poignant rendition Stills from *Daklakatha Devi Kavya*. PHOTO BY IVAN D SILVA / THE HINDU

Instruments of change

The myth of Dakla devi is a part of the community's Kulapuranas or clan epics. Lakshman wanted to conceptualise the play as a Dalit epic, and he was trying to discover the true voice of the communities referred in the play. "I wanted to portray a community, not just one person. Dakla becomes a metaphor for hunger, dignity, love, belonging, joy and many things."

The instruments Tamte and Areye dominate the play's soundscape. The musicians who play them enact the role of Dakla's two sons. The director chose to feature these instruments because of the extreme marginalisation they faced on the Indian stage, particularly the Kannada stage, because of their association with specific castes.

Lakshman has always known the power of these instruments. For instance, the Tamte was used for protests. "I cannot imagine any folk rituals in Karnataka without these instruments," he says.

In fact, Dalit history can be found in these instruments, and in the songs and stories of the communities, says Lakshman. "If you want to access Dalit history, you have to depend on oral traditions. The instruments, too, are archives – they carry a tradition and have many things to say."

In the play, the director has relied on the actors' bodies and sparse aesthetics as a form of expression. And, surely, one cannot help but make note of the impactful performances; be it the Zen-like still walk of the charismatic Devi (effortlessly played by Bindu Raxidi) or that of the doting meat- and alcohol-loving father, played effectively by a vulnerable and compelling Santhosh Dindagur.

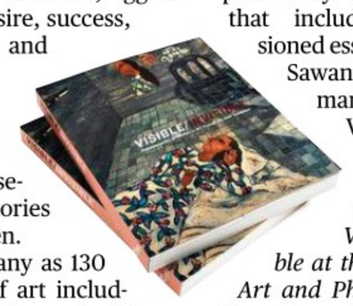
The play will be staged on November 9 at Ranga Shankara.

Lost in plain sight

The Museum of Art and Photography is currently hosting Visible/Invisible, an exhibition that looks at the representation of women through the artwork in their collection. The purpose of this exhibition is to re-address preconceived notions of femininity and gender as a social construct through art history.

Holding up a mirror A visitor to the exhibition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The female form has forever been the subject of artistic representation, almost always portrayed by males. Women in society have had little say in the way they were depicted – a plight that has gone unaddressed for centuries. Visible/Invisible exhibition looks at aspects such sacrifice, nourishment, aggression, desire, success, struggle and power dynamics to highlight selected stories of women.



As many as 130 works of art including sculptures, textiles, posters, paintings and photographs, from the tenth century to the modern day are a part of this showcase. Visible/Invisible has been divided into four sections – Goddess and Mortal, Sexuality and Desire, Power and Violence, and Struggle and Resistance – for better comprehension of the subject.

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication that includes commissioned essays by Shukla Sawant, Vijeta Kumar and Arushi Vats, and is available at the MAP shop.

Visible/Invisible at the Museum of Art and Photography in Bengaluru will be on till December 1, 2025. Tickets have to be booked to view this show. For details visit https://map-india.org/

Telangana Cong. allots Kothagudem seat to CPI

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

Ending a weeks-long suspense, the Telangana Congress has finally allotted the Kothagudem Assembly seat in old Khammam district to the Communist Party of India (CPI).

The decision was taken after TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy met CPI leaders, including State Secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao in the latter's office on Monday.

After the meeting, the leaders said the Congress and the CPI have joined hands to defeat the BJP-led NDA. Rao, a former MLA, is likely to contest from the seat. The Congress has promised to give two MLC tickets to the party after Assembly election results.

Vote after checking history of parties, KCR tells people

BRS president says Congress delayed Statehood to Telangana by 10 years; blames the party for the water shortage and distress migration faced by erstwhile Mahabubnagar district

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Monday urged people to use the "powerful weapon of vote" with discretion, after looking into the history of political parties and what they did for the State.

Addressing election rallies at Devarakadra, Gadwal, Makthal and Narayanpet, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president took on the Congress, saying the party had agreed to grant Statehood to Telangana in 2004 but delayed it by 10 years. It was the Congress that had forcibly merged Telangana with Andhra against the wishes of the people here.

Terrain check: BRS leaders welcoming CM K. Chandrashekhar Rao at Devarakadra in Telangana on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Rao said the Congress was solely responsible for the water shortage and distress migration faced by Palamuru, the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, though two major rivers pass through it. The district had many tall leaders who enjoyed posts and power but they never fought either to provide drinking water to people or to irrigate parched lands but instead supported leaders who diverted the river water to Rayalaseema at the cost of Palamuru people who had the first right over water, he said.

He mentioned the issue of Scheduled Tribe status for the Valmiki Boya community, and blamed the first Chief Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh, Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, for the current impasse. The community was included on the ST list in Andhra but not in Telangana, he said. The Telangana Assembly had adopted a resolution twice on the issue, but the Centre was sitting on it, Mr. Rao said.

Telangana Cong. chief to contest from Kamareddy

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress on Monday night released its third list naming 14 candidates, including TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy from the Kamareddy Assembly constituency, and replacing two already selected nominees.

In all, 19 seats were pending, but the party chose to announce 14 names and bring in new leaders in two constituencies, where nominees were already announced. The party has not yet finalised candidates for Suryapet, Thungathurthy(SC), Miryalaguda and Charminar.

Twin replacements

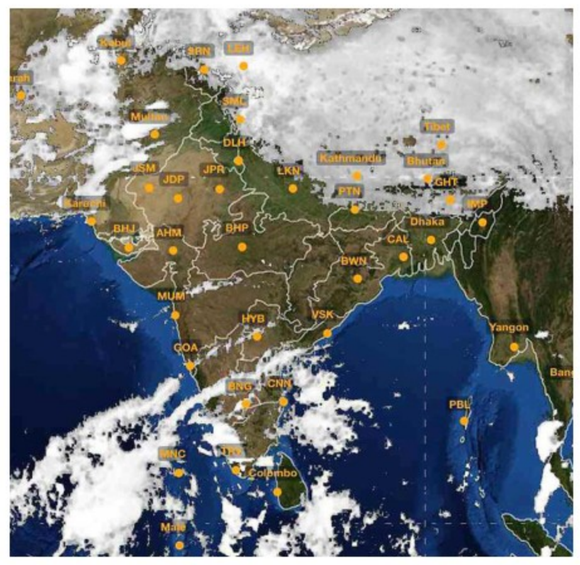
The party in a dramatic manner replaced former Minister G. Chinna Reddy (Wanaparthy) with Tudi Megha Reddy. Similarly, Ade Gajender has replaced Vennela Ashok from Boath. Former Minister Md. Ali Shabbir was fielded from Nizamabad Urban. Former MP and senior BJP leader G. Vivekanand was given the Chennur (SC) seat. Senior Congress leader K.K. Mahender Reddy will face IT Minister K. T. Rama Rao in Sircilla.

Nilam Madhu Mudiraj, who switched from the BRS to the Congress, has been rewarded with the Patancheru ticket, while another former MP Suresh Shetkar will fight from Narayankhed.

The election to the 119-seat Telangana Assembly will be held on November 30.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	19.4	Kozhikode	—	34.0	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.9	22.0	Kurnool	0.3	32.8	24.1
Aizawl	—	28.8	14.2	Lucknow	—	30.8	18.0
Allahabad	—	33.0	18.2	Madurai	0.2	34.0	23.6
Bengaluru	—	28.7	21.7	Mangaluru	67	30.1	23.5
Bhopal	—	33.8	16.6	Mumbai	—	34.4	22.8
Bhubaneswar	—	30.9	23.6	Mysuru	1	30.6	24.0
Chandigarh	—	31.1	14.9	New Delhi	—	31.5	13.5
Chennai	3	31.0	25.4	Patna	—	31.4	19.2
Coimbatore	—	29.6	23.6	Port Blair	4	31.8	25.7
Dehradun	—	28.4	13.0	Puducherry	—	32.4	25.0
Gangtok	—	19.5	11.4	Pune	—	31.2	18.7
Goa	—	33.6	25.6	Raipur	—	32.6	19.7
Guwahati	—	31.0	18.4	Ranchi	—	28.6	15.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	—	21.4	10.4
Hyderabad	—	30.8	22.6	Shimla	—	22.0	10.2
Imphal	—	28.2	13.3	Srinagar	—	19.2	2.7
Jaipur	—	32.3	23.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	24.6
Kochi	0.2	31.4	25.0	Tiruchi	—	33.3	25.0
Kohima	—	20.7	10.2	Vijayawada	—	30.8	25.8
Kolkata	—	31.5	23.3	Visakhapatnam	0.4	33.0	24.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	2	.28	197	237	
Bengaluru	8	.22	.43	50	78	
Chennai	6	.14	.67	26	40	
Delhi	.18	109	154	456	454	
Hyderabad	8	.68	.35	123	112	
Kolkata	.14	.32	.22	162	108	
Lucknow	6	.49	106	331	287	
Mumbai	.24	127	.27	232	175	
Pune	117	171	112	271	147	
Visakhapatnam	7	.23	.25	29	39	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 433 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CPI(M) bats for Cong. leader facing inquiry

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The political fizz about the possibility of another headline-grabbing defection from the Congress seemed to gain some traction on Monday with the CPI(M) declaring solidarity with embattled Congress leader Aryadan Shoukath on the very day he appeared before a party disciplinary committee to answer the charge of "mutinous political activity".

The committee headed by MLA Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan sought Mr. Shoukath's explanation for holding a pro-Palestine rally in Malappuram, violating the party's diktat.

Mr. Shoukath appeared to scotch the CPI(M)-initiated speculation about a possible fallout with his party. He told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram that his commitment to Palestine remained unshaken, and his loyalty lay with the Congress.

Three dead, two hurt as APSRTC bus rams into passengers

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Three passengers were killed and two others suffered injuries when an APSRTC AC Metro Luxury bus rammed into passengers seated on Platform No 12 of the Pandit Nehru Bus Station here on Monday.

The deceased were identified as passenger, Kumari, of Chirala, Ayansh (18-months) and RTC booking clerk Veeraiah, working in Guntur. Sukanya and Suresh Babu, who suffered injuries, were admitted to hospital.

The Vijayawada-Guntur non-stop bus suddenly ploughed on to the platform, hit the railing and the passengers siting on the chairs there, and came to a halt just before the stalls.

Passengers ran helter-skelter in the bus station to save themselves. All the 24 passengers, who were inside the bus, were safe. "I was waiting on Platform No. 10. The AC bus suddenly hit the platform, entered into the seating area and hit the passengers around 8.40 a.m," said Chaitanya, an eyewitness.

Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation Vice-Chairman and MD Ch. Dwaraka Tirumala Rao interacted with the RTC officials and the passengers. "An inquiry has been ordered into the mishap. The RTC will bear the full medical expenses of the injured," the MD said.

Alcohol-free agri-tourism facility set up at Chintapalli in ASR district

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Tourists who love to spend time in the lap of nature have a reason to cheer as the first agro-tourism facility in Andhra Pradesh has been readied at Chintapalli in Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district.

Surrounded by dense forest and rich diversity of flora and fauna of the Eastern Ghats, the agro-tourism facility at 839 metres above the mean sea level is an alcohol-free zone.

The officials have prepared the agri-tourism module under the guidance of Pandurang Taware, who is known as the 'father of agri-tourism' in India. Mr. Taware pioneered this concept in Maharashtra in 2005.

A viewpoint set up at the agri-tourism facility at Chintapalli in Alluri Sitharama Raju district.

The officials of the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) at Chintapalli have come forward to tap the potential of agri-tourism here, with a focus on research activities related to high-altitude farming.

Tourists, during their visit to the agro-tourism facility, can have a technical tour of high-altitude farming activities with the support of the RARS volunteers. They can also take part in organic farming activities during their stay.

The RARS team is making arrangements for food, sightseeing, accommodation, etc. for the tourists.

"We will provide basic facilities such as accommodation and food. Use of alcohol is strictly prohibited in this facility. At present, we have seven cottages. We charge ₹2,500 for a cottage per day. Tourists need to pay separately for food and other amenities," said Chintapalli RARS Associate Director of Research M. Suresh Kumar.

As a part of the package, the tourists can stay in cottages built around parks which have at least 200 types of medicinal plants, relish delicacies prepared from crops that are organically grown without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and enjoy the natural streams, parks and fishing, he added.

SC refuses to grant relief to T.N. Minister Ponmudy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed petitions filed by Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy and his wife, challenging *suo motu* proceedings initiated by Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court against the transfer of their trial and subsequent acquittal in a disproportionate assets case.

"Thank god for our judicial institution we have judges like Justice Anand Venkatesh," Chief Justice Chandrachud told advocates Kapil Sibal and Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the Minister and his wife.

50 acres of farmland wiped out in landslips in Idukki

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Over 50 acres of agricultural land was wiped out following a series of landslips near Munnar in Idukki in extremely heavy rainfall on Sunday evening. The affected areas are in the Santhanpara gram panchayat.

Seven houses were partially damaged and two vehicles were washed away. The Pethotty-Santhanpara road was destroyed after a massive amount of soil and rock fell on it after the landslip.

Estate worker killed

A 59-year-old cardamom estate worker was killed when earth caved in on a shed at Cheriyar, near Santhanpara, on Sunday night. Udumbanchola tahsildar Jose A.V. said 25 families will be shifted to the Santhanpara Government High School.

Lost land: A landslip-affected area at Pethotty under the Santhanpara panchayat in Idukki. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The local people said that due to heavy rain, the streams in the panchayat area overflowed and flooded houses.

Considering the chances of landslips and mudslips on the Munnar-Kumily route, District Collector Sheeba George banned night travel on the Udumbanchola-Cheriyar stretch of the Kumily-Munnar State Highway until further notice.

5 men from T.N. held with red sanders worth ₹4 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

The Tirupati police have seized over 5,000 kg of red sanders logs and arrested five persons hailing from Tamil Nadu on Monday.

The seized logs, weighing 5,388 kg, are estimated to be worth ₹4.31 crore. Two cars used by them were also impounded.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team arrested them near Tada, on the Tamil Nadu border abutting NH 16. Murugan, a serial offender under the Preventive Detention Act, was arrested along with Hemanth Kumar, Ravi, Vimal and Surender.

Kerala plans to allow private universities

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will introduce a Bill during the next Assembly session to permit private universities in the State, Higher Education Minister R. Bindu has said.

Speaking at a seminar on higher education in Kerala organised as part of the Keraleeyam festival here on Monday, she said the government endorsed the idea of private universities and the contours of the proposed legislation were being finalised.

The Commission for Reforms in Higher Education had urged the government to formulate a Kerala State Private Universities Bill.

Speaking on the occasion, commission chairperson Shyam B. Menon said all universities were fundamentally public institutions, irrespective of whether they were promoted by governments or private entities. Several major public universities had their origin as institutions created through the efforts of individuals or private entities, he said and cited the examples of Visva-Bharati and Aligarh Muslim University.

The participants proposed clubbing smaller varsities or merging them with larger ones to facilitate multidisciplinary learning and to make the most use of the available resources.

Death toll in Kalamassery multiple blasts rises to four

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The death toll in the multiple blasts at a Jehovah's Witnesses gathering at Kalamassery in Kerala on October 29 rose to four, with the death of a 61-year-old woman on Monday.

The victim, Moly Joy of Kalamassery had been hospitalised with around 70% burns. Of the 11 injured being treated in intensive care units in various hospitals, the condition of one is extremely critical.

The accused in the case, Dominic Martin, said to be an estranged member of the sect, was sent to police custody on Monday.

Offshore campus of IIT Madras launched

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Zanzibar campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras was formally launched on Monday.

urrently around 50 students have been admitted in the institute - 35 for Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science course and 15 students for M. Tech in AI and DS courses.

Around 500 applications were received for the courses and students were selected through an eligibility test and interview.

Among the UG students around 15 are Indians and 8 from India have joined the PG programme. About 22 students in the UG programme are from Africa and around 40% of the students are women.

Preeti Aghalayam, Director in-charge, Zanzibar campus, IIT Madras.

Zanzibar President and chairman of the Revolutionary Council Hussein Ali Mwinyi inaugurated the campus.

Institute director V. Kamakoti told media persons that the entire exercise of setting up the campus took around six months.

The courses planned are BS in Electronic Sciences, a B.Tech or M.Tech in Ocean Engineering and a programme in mining.

"We have admitted 30 students from Africa for fellowship so that they can be trained to become faculty (for the offshore campus)," Mr. Kamakoti said.

The existing temporary campus is in Bweleo district, which is 15 km south of Zanzibar town.

The institute has also urged public sector banks to facilitate loans for Indian students who wish to study in the Zanzibar campus. The cost of UG education at the campus is around USD 12,000.

The Zanzibar government had committed around ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 crore and 232 acres of sea facing land to set up a campus, Mr. Kamakoti said.

Kerala HC seeks records on college chairman poll

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday sought records on the election held to the college union chairman's post at the Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur.

The directive came on a writ petition filed by Sreekuttan S., KSU's chairman candidate. He said though he was declared elected, the Returning Officer ordered recount following "external intervention". Anirudhan K.S. of the SFI, was then declared elected.

Meanwhile, three protesters were injured in the capital city after a protest by the KSU on the issue.

Defection business

Party-hopping seems set to stay as parties pick candidates with resources

Even as party campaigns are in full swing and candidates are announced in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana, one development that seems to be common to these elections and those held recently is the last minute defection of leaders from one party to another. Elections in India have become expensive and most parties, except those from the Left, tend to field candidates not just based on their dint of work or popularity but, increasingly, on their abilities to mobilise resources for campaigns. So, electoral politics has thrown up a set of politicians who are in it to build a career more out of patronage and less out of ideological conviction. This allows for a large degree of malleability in party affiliation for this set, many of whom engage in party-hopping as they have a good sense of the way electoral winds are blowing. Joining them too are incumbents who do so if not given another chance by their parties, and also rebels. The politics of patronage can be frowned upon as being less representative of interests and demands in a constituency and more of a transaction between the candidate and the voter – the voter gets goods and services from the winning candidate for voting in favour while the legislator uses the post to create an elaborate spoils system, usually to benefit from it as well. This system of patronage can also be seen as an outcome of the larger democratisation of the polity itself, as it throws up representatives catering to specific demands of voters, making the process meaningful for them, bypassing the party structure.

The by-product of this system is the presence of careerist politicians who are in it more for transactional purposes than principled or ideological reasons. A reason why the Congress has lost out to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in pre-eminence nationally is because of large-scale defections to the BJP, which has managed to articulate a clear ideological stance of right-wing conservatism through its leadership while providing a platform for those seeking to use the electoral system for patronage. As the Congress tries to rejuvenate itself, the party has sought to distinguish itself from the BJP not just in terms of what it represents in secular terms but also as a vehicle of welfare through electoral guarantees. This has allowed itself to play host to last-minute defectors from the BJP and regional parties in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, but this also throws up a challenge in retaining these malleable legislators. Alas, defections will remain a feature of Indian politics unless voters punish the defectors for repeated party-hopping and see no longer term interest in choosing a representative with tenuous ideological affiliation.

More light, less sound

To abate noise crisis, governments must prevent making of violative firecrackers

The 'festival of lights' should not be allowed to degenerate into a festival of noise. Firecrackers are associated with joyous celebrations across the world; but, many are toxic, often too loud, and release noxious fumes when combusted. In 2018, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research launched less noxious and less noisy 'green' crackers, whose use various statutory bodies have mandated. The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000 stipulate that firecrackers cannot be burst in 'silence zones', designated by State governments, and anywhere after 10 p.m. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (i.e., 'daytime') and in industrial areas, firecracker noise cannot exceed 75 dB(A) Leq. The thresholds in commercial and residential areas are 65 dB(A) Leq and 55 dB(A) Leq, respectively. dB stands for decibel; A is a weight scale for human perception of loudness; and Leq means the figure is a time-average. The rules allow people to register a complaint if the noise overshoots by 10 dB(A) Leq during daytime.

Because dB is a logarithmic unit, an increase of 10 dB implies a tenfold increase in acoustic pressure, which is often beyond the point at which the sound becomes harmful. Research has found links between loud environs and sleep disorders, tinnitus, stress, anxiety, hearing loss, and cardiac health. More than 80 dB(A) in offices has been associated with hypertension whereas above 50 dB(A) at night, when the body is unaccustomed to loud noises, could increase cortisol levels. Traffic noise has burgeoned in cities where haphazard development has forced motorists to overuse horns. Many religious occasions have become synonymous with noisy celebrations irrespective of the hour. During Deepavali, firecrackers (even 'green' ones) routinely produce more than 90 dB of sound. If, say, people burst firecrackers at 90 dB for 10 seconds and the ambient noise is 50 dB for 50 seconds, and this pattern continues for four hours followed by 12 hours of 50 dB noise, the 16-hour Leq is 74.5 dB – which merits a complaint in residential areas but not in commercial ones, yet the noise is already harmful. Different loudness zones are also seldom publicly demarcated while some places are both residential and commercial. The rules are unclear about the sanctions to be meted out to offenders. Enforcement remains obscure. So, focusing on marginal improvements to firecrackers before every festival is becoming a red herring. India's noise is a public health crisis. If firecrackers are not to worsen matters, governments must prevent the production of violative firecrackers altogether and cities must improve public access to noise data and adopt noise mitigation targets.

A telco double dip attempt that threatens Net neutrality

R.S. Sharma

is former Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

Sunil Bajpai

is former Principal Adviser, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

In July this year, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), at the request of the government, invited a comprehensive consultation on the need and possible mechanisms for regulation of Over-The-Top (OTT) services. It seems to have stirred up a hornet's nest.

For more than a decade now, telecom companies have seen revenue from traditional streams such as voice calls and Short Message Service (SMS) come under pressure, as competing OTT services are often free. At the same time, they have had to invest heavily in upgrading their infrastructure to handle increased data traffic, without necessarily seeing an equivalent rise in revenue. It is also their lament that OTT services are not subject to the same level of taxation and licensing fees, leading to an uneven playing field.

On the flip side, the use of OTT services has led to a surge in data consumption, which is a growing revenue stream for telecom companies.

Flawed argument that affects net neutrality

The OTT consultation has renewed the clamour from the telecom companies that content providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+ Hotstar be asked to share in the costs of bandwidth. They argue that streaming platforms are free riders, benefiting from the infrastructure built and maintained by the telecom companies. However, this argument is fundamentally flawed and sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the principle of net neutrality.

Telecom companies do not own the Internet; rather, they provide access to it. Consumers pay the telcos for access services by purchasing data plans.

By offering services that consumers desire, OTT platforms generate demand for Internet access. They also pay for the content delivery networks (CDNs) to create pathways that substantially augment the capacity of the internet to deliver their content.

Telecom companies capitalise on this demand (and the availability of OTT content) by providing connectivity to the Internet and charging subscribers for it. If they fail to cover costs, telecom companies are at liberty to increase their prices, which should go towards maintaining and upgrading their infrastructure.

One of the requirements for the operation of a fair market is that the costs and benefits of a transaction are fully accounted for in the exchange price. Therefore, any attempt to seek cross-subsidies instead of fully accounting for the costs could warrant scrutiny from the Competition Commission.

Upholding the principles of net neutrality is essential to foster a conducive environment for innovation, competition, and consumer welfare, especially in India

OTT services compete in their own market on the basis of variety and quality of content, the quality of streaming (such as, support for HD or better resolution or 5.1 surround sound), ease in navigation and discovery of content, and its availability on multiple devices. The consumers pay the price for these benefits as compared to the alternatives.

Similarly, in the marketplace for Internet access, the consumers are free to choose the provider that offers them the highest bandwidth, data volume, and reliability at an affordable price.

These are distinct markets because services from one are not substitutable for services in the other. Therefore, it is logical to maintain a separation of costs between these two markets.

The attempt of telcos to double dip by charging both consumers and content providers is not only avaricious but also undermines net neutrality, as stated above. To better comprehend the fallacy in telcos' demand, let us employ an analogy.

Imagine a toll plaza where specific brands or models of vehicles are charged an additional tax, directly payable by the manufacturers, because they make "popular vehicles that tend to cause congestion". If owners of all vehicles pay the regular toll, the more popular vehicles as a category contribute a proportionally higher amount. There is no need for their manufacturers to contribute extra. On the other hand, an additional toll directly collected from the manufacturers would push up the price of popular cars for their buyers, making them less attractive.

Likewise, if OTT platforms were to acquiesce to the demands of the telcos, the incurred costs would trickle down to subscribers, either through increased subscription fees or degraded service quality for those platforms unwilling or unable to pay the toll. This outcome can only be detrimental to consumers who have come to rely on OTT services for entertainment, education, and professional pursuits.

The principle

Net neutrality is the principle that Internet access providers must treat all traffic originating from and terminating to the Internet in the same way. The idea has been developed over time, but its modern articulation may be largely credited to Columbia Law School professor Tim Wu, who coined the term "net neutrality" in a 2003 paper titled "Network Neutrality, Broadband Discrimination." Here, Wu proposed the concept of net neutrality to promote an even playing field on the Internet, ensuring that all data is treated equally without discrimination by Internet service providers (ISPs).

Net neutrality draws from earlier notions and principles concerning common carriage, which posit that service to all customers must be provided on a non-discriminatory basis. The application of these principles to the modern Internet, with its unique technical and economic characteristics, required fresh legal and policy analysis, which Wu and others provided.

This principle that has been examined by economists (from the perspective of market competition, consumer welfare, and innovation); by legal experts (for the regulatory frameworks that govern net neutrality, and how these laws impact the rights and obligations of Internet service providers, content providers, and consumers); computer scientists and engineers (for detection and enforcement mechanisms that are technology based); and other policy analysts on how it affects different social groups, their political expression, and how it impacts fairness, justice, and equality.

Basis of TRAI regulation

Net neutrality formed the basis of TRAI's regulation on prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services brought out on February 8, 2016. The regulator's action forced the withdrawal of Facebook's Free Basics platform and some other offerings in India. Later, on November 28, 2017, TRAI released its comprehensive recommendations, which have largely guided the adoption of this principle in India.

These steps taken by TRAI were noted elsewhere in the world. The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and TRAI adopted a Joint Statement for an Open Internet on June 14, 2018, later reaffirmed in 2020. The two organisations agreed through this memorandum of understanding to cooperate in developing technological and policy initiatives for net neutrality. Many other countries have also adopted net neutrality, thereafter.

It is imperative for all stakeholders, including policymakers, to recognise the long-term ramifications of acquiescing to the short-sighted demands of telecom companies. Upholding the principles of net neutrality is not merely about preserving the ethos of an open Internet but is also intrinsic to fostering a conducive environment for innovation, competition, and consumer welfare, especially countries such as India where the Internet is going to be the carrier of all Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

The views expressed are personal

The cult of operational superiority, from Israel to India

Arzan Tarapore

is Research Scholar, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, U.S.

Israel's prevailing security policy has collapsed. For decades it projected a mirage of ruthless sophistication, as it repeatedly and confidently cut its Palestinian enemies down to size. But the unspeakable horrors of October 7, 2023 have prompted a visceral retaliation in Gaza, that brings still-unknown risks of escalation on other fronts, and the unprecedented suffering of innocent civilians that will ricochet through generations. The catastrophe should prompt a fundamental rethink of Israel's strategic concepts – and carries dire warnings for India, too.

Managing rather than solving

Every couple of years, starting in 2008, Israel launched limited air campaigns into Gaza, to degrade the military capabilities – from rocket launchers to tunnels – of Hamas and other militants. Every couple of years, it would kill and destroy just enough of Hamas's people and power to keep the rockets silenced, and the threat contained. A tenuous peace would return to the skies over Israel. This strategic "concept" based on periodic attrition seemed to work. But in fact Israel's military virtuosity masked the reality that its approach was bereft of a political plan.

Israel was managing, not seeking to solve, the problem of Palestinian resistance, from which its terrorist enemies sprouted.

In parallel with the routine military campaigns, the government of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abandoned the two-state solution and actively undermined it. His cynical ploy was to sabotage politics, by strengthening extremists such as Hamas at the expense of more credible and popular Palestinian forces, especially the Palestinian Authority (PA) that nominally ran the West Bank. Mr. Netanyahu sought to keep the Palestinians hopelessly divided, the PA weak, and to thereby stall the political process for addressing the Israel-Palestine dispute. And he succeeded.

Managing a strategic threat through purely military means can work – until the adversary finds a way in. Israel's strategic concept of periodic attrition only ever addressed Palestinian groups' capabilities, never their political intent. It was based on an assumption of unassailable Israeli power – a belief that operational superiority alone can deliver strategic effects.

Managing a strategic threat through purely military means works only until the adversary finds a way in, as Tel Aviv has learnt and New Delhi must note

Indeed Israel's operational superiority does provide something of a guarantee – Hamas poses no existential threat to Israel. But short of that, as Hamas showed on October 7, a weaker and highly resolved enemy can still inflict untold physical harm, let alone massive national dislocation. Relying on a cult of operational superiority, while ignoring the problem's political roots, invites the adversary to hold fast to its unshakeable beliefs, cling to violence as the only mode of politics, and to keep trying until it finally lands a meaningful blow.

This should sound familiar to Indian ears.

India's handling of Pakistan

For almost a decade, aside from some initial feelers, the Narendra Modi government has treated Pakistan as little more than an irritant to an unstoppably rising India. In defence matters, this has included some commendable efforts. Facing a more urgent threat on the China border, in 2021 India resuscitated the Line of Control ceasefire, and it re-tasked a dedicated Pakistan-facing Strike Corps to the China border. More could be done to right-size the military's focus on Pakistan, which, for decades, has been a sink of resources and military attention.

But India was also seduced by the cult of operational superiority. Just as in Israel's case, the core of this concept suggests that a more powerful actor can apply periodic attrition to manage its threats. India has procured new technologies such as the SPICE (Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective) missiles, adopted new punitive attack options such as in Balakot, and may even be involved in the mysterious assassinations of several anti-India terrorist leaders in Pakistan. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, some or all of these impressive capabilities are products of India's closer relationship with Israel. They make India stronger; but by themselves they only enable successful tactics, not effective strategy.

Meanwhile, India has rejected the notion of addressing the threat politically. New Delhi abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's autonomous status in 2019, signalling that the Kashmir dispute is now irrevocably non-negotiable, and maintains that it will not reopen talks with Pakistan as long as cross-border terrorism exists. This seems like a reasonable position. India has a thriving economy, is diplomatically courted by the world, and brims with the promise of technology-fuelled dynamism. Why should it get bogged down in a torturous process, full of spoilers, where any deal may not be enforceable?

The answer lies in Israel. Ignoring the political interests at the heart of a rivalry only invites the adversary to dig in and try harder.

A political process may have dividends

Dialogue will not extinguish the Pakistan Army's entrenched anti-India ideology, and even less, the fervour of its terrorist allies. But détente has broken out among inveterate rivals before – including between Israel and its older Arab enemies, most recently Saudi Arabia. Similarly, Pakistan's Army and political elite could conceivably gain a stake in at least calming tensions with India and distancing themselves from extremist groups. They have incentives in buttressing economic stability, building capacity to counter anti-state terrorism, and reducing their dependence on China.

A grand bargain may be elusive, but starting a political process could address a range of pressing issues, from nuclear and missile confidence-building measures, to coordination on Afghanistan, and opening the spigot on trade and investment.

We have seen, in the past month, the costs of ignoring politics. A weaker and highly-resolved adversary can still cause untold harm. The cult of operational superiority has produced only more intractable insecurity for Israel, more devastating loss for Gazans, and possibly ripples of war across the region. Next to India, Pakistan is in the midst of seemingly endless internal tumult, and hosts a roiling soup of violent extremism. And it has nuclear weapons. By all means, New Delhi must maintain and reinforce deterrence through the full spectrum of conflict. But managing a strategic threat through purely military means works only until the adversary finds a way in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indian juggernaut

One did not quite expect such a meek surrender by the South African cricket team to India in Kolkata. The optimism of our players as successful chasers has been established. Immaculate fielding and absolute consistency while batting and bowling have helped them harvest runs. Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja deserve encomiums for their outstanding bowling. India's advance to the final seems to be a clear path.

R. Pichumani,
Thippirajapuram, Tamil Nadu

In cricket parlance they say that fast bowlers hunt in pairs, but we seem to have an Indian pace trio that is hunting in a pack like wolves. The opposition batsmen are not given any breathing space. Mohammed Shiraj, Shami and Jasprit Bumrah are relentless and there is a clinical display of seam and swing bowling by them.

Bal Govind,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Corrections & Clarifications

The opening sentence of the report titled "Bhutan King to meet PM today, Assam border project on agenda" (November 6, 2023) erroneously described Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck as Bhutan's fourth King. He is the fifth King.

In the 'Sports' page story which was titled "Dimitrov holds off Tsitsipas to reach Paris Masters final" ('In Brief', November 5, 2023), his scores should have been 6-3, 6-7(1), 7-6(3), and not as published.

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The Canadian dream is not waning

The geopolitical environment and international relations are critical in choosing international study destinations. Disruptions in the diplomatic relationship between two countries impinge on the free flow of natural persons. Thus, the deepening tension between India and Canada casts a dark shadow on the prospects of students.

Canada is home to about 1.3 million Indians who account for 4% of the country's population (Canadian Census, 2021). Indian immigration peaked in the 2016-2021 period. Indians who have become permanent residents in Canada increased from 32,828 in 2013 to 1,18,095 in 2022. A good proportion of Indians in Canada are on student visas.

A sought-after destination

Canada has thus emerged as one of the most sought-after destinations for Indians who wish to study abroad. The number of Indian students in Canada has sharply risen in recent years. In 2009, it was 31,665; this rose to 1,71,505 by 2018. And by December 2022, nearly 3,20,000 Indians were in Canada on active study permits, accounting for about 40% of the international students in that country.

In September, following a severe strain in ties between the two countries, India updated its advisory urging its citizens residing or planning to travel to Canada to exercise utmost caution. Young Indians pursuing higher education in Canada are bound to suffer extreme anxiety on hearing such warnings. The situation is particularly vexatious for those who have just secured admissions to Canadian higher educational institutions. Canadian colleges and universities have, however, been reassuring students that they are as safe and welcomed as before.

Indian students, especially those pursuing master's and research degree programmes, prefer destinations that promise

Furqan Qamar,

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Sameer Ahmad Khan

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fee waivers and offer scholarships and stipends. Besides paying fees, international students contribute towards the host countries. In 2020, international students contributed over 22.3 billion CAD to the Canadian economy and supported more than 2,18,000 jobs. This is one of the main reasons why most countries want to attract international students. Canada is no exception.

The decision to study in Canada has other dimensions as well. Students see it a potent route to settle abroad for better career and income opportunities. A survey by the Canadian Bureau for International Education in 2021 revealed that only 7.4% of international students in Canada intended to return to their home countries, while 72.6% intended to remain in Canada after completing their studies and the remaining 20% were not sure if they wanted to stay or return home. The pathway to Canadian citizenship is known to be cheaper and faster in comparison to other Western countries. Thus it is the prospects that lure people to the 'Great White North'. Canada's Express Entry Program and Provincial Nominee Program might not work for all those wishing to relocate to Canada. However, entry via a study visa has emerged as an accessible and promising route to reach the dreamland. That is the impression that emigration agents and consultants send out to their prospective clients.

Not always lucrative

However, the study route to settling in Canada is not always lucrative. A recent report by Senators Ratna Omidvar, Hassan Yussuff, and Yuen Pau Woo points out that since 2000, only 30% of international students have been able to get permanent residence within a decade of their arrival. The report asserts that studying in Canada may brighten and enhance career and income prospects, but it does not guarantee a seamless transition from being an international student to becoming an immigrant.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that international students find it increasingly difficult to get jobs. Social media sites have been showing long queues of Indian students looking for part-time jobs, suggesting a moderate to severe job crises for Indian students. There are also indications that prospective students are already looking for alternatives to Canada.

Housing crisis

Within Canada, many believe that the continuous influx of emigrants and international students has been exerting pressure on the housing sector, leading to skyrocketing rental prices. The price and rentals of the single-family accommodations are particularly stressed. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation believes that the nation must build 5.8 million new homes by 2030 to restore affordability. Housing shortages have occasionally triggered demands for restricting university admissions by making the process more competitive. The government has not ruled out the possibility. In fact, it may consider this as a viable option to ease housing rentals.

Yet, the charm of Canada for international students is not waning yet. The averages are often deceptive. People perceive reality based on their interactions with friends and relatives who went to Canada to study. First-hand knowledge usually gets more credence than data and statistics. All students yearn for quality higher education, which many find difficult to get within their own country. Aspiring for better career prospects and income opportunities, they are willing to travel across seven seas.

Indian students are no exception. In some sense, they might be more impassioned. Sadly, those who wish to go to Canada are now compelled to negotiate clouds of uncertainty in order to chase their dreams.

But those who wish to go to Canada are now compelled to negotiate clouds of uncertainty in order to chase their dreams

A fight for the top post

The tussle between Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar persists

STATE OF PLAY

Nagesh Prabhu
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The tussle over power-sharing between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, which had surfaced during the formation of the Congress government in May, is in the open once again.

Amid claims by some MLAs that Mr. Shivakumar will take over the post of Chief Minister after two and a half years, Mr. Siddaramaiah's assertion last week that he will complete a full term has again set the cat among the pigeons.

While Mr. Siddaramaiah has a mass following and is known to appeal to the minorities, backward classes, and Dalits across the State, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also heading the State party unit, is known for his organisational skills and pull among the dominant Vokkaliga community.

With both leaders vying for power, the Congress high command, especially Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, prevailed upon them to work together to ensure smooth government formation as well as the rolling out of the party's five guarantee schemes. However, there has been turbulence every now and then, largely owing to the varying political backgrounds, leadership styles, ambitions, and ideological approaches of the two leaders.

Though Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar sought to give the impression that there is no political one-upmanship, their staunch supporters have been openly airing their differences. The omission of senior party leader B.K. Hariprasad from the Cabinet and the alleged side-lining of a section of

Cabinet ministers in making key decisions have caused resentment. Some ministers alleged a lack of acknowledgement for their contributions in the party's spectacular victory in the 2023 Assembly elections. Even as Mr. Shivakumar is biding his time, ministers Satish Jarkiholi and G. Parameshwara have also been nursing their ambition to occupy the coveted top post.

In order to ensure equal distribution of powers, Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna mooted a proposal before the high command to appoint three more Deputy Chief Ministers for "balancing castes" ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This proposal is seen as a bid by the Siddaramaiah camp to checkmate Mr. Shivakumar, who is seen to be taking decisions related to Bengaluru, which is key to the State's economic growth, with little consultation.

Mr. Shivakumar's "unilateral" proposal to rename Ramanagara district, abutting the State capital, as Bengaluru South has not gone down well with the Chief Minister. Mr. Siddaramaiah distanced himself from it saying, "I will discuss it with him. As he has not discussed the matter, I don't know what is on his mind."

The proposal was made with the intent of developing real estate, and drew flak from many quarters, especially Janata Dal (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who had carved out Ramanagara district from Bengaluru Rural in 2007 when he was Chief Minister.

Amid all this brouhaha, delays in the appointment of party workers and legislators to 80-odd government boards/corporations, out-of-turn remarks by ministers and party MLAs on the tenure of the Chief Minister and other issues, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s allegations of corruption in the government do not augur well for Congress ahead of the general elections.

In a damage control exercise, AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal huddled with Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar last week in Bengaluru, to pacify them. The leaders also cautioned ministers and legislators not to cross the 'Lakshman Rekha' of the party. They warned that "appropriate action" would be taken against those making public statements on internal party matters and the government.

The BJP, which has mastered the art of engineered defections ('Operation Lotus'), first in 2008 and then in 2019 in Karnataka, has adopted a wait-and-watch policy. Mr. Shivakumar and others in the Congress have claimed that there is "a big conspiracy" to topple the government.

In an attempt to send a clear message to the Congress cadre that 'all is well' in the government, Mr. Siddaramaiah recently held a breakfast meeting with his cabinet colleagues, including Mr. Shivakumar, and instructed them to work hard to ensure victory in at least 20 out of 28 seats in the 2024 general elections. While this is an apparent compromise bid, the game of one-upmanship between the top leaders is clearly not over. It is anybody's guess when it might get intense again.

The stressful lives of students in Kota

A CSDS-Lokniti study shows that a majority of the students live alone, sleep less in order to study more, and feel homesick

DATA POINT

Abhinav Pankaj Borbora, Suhas Palshikar, Sanjay Kumar & Jyoti Mishra

A typical image that people have of Kota is of students preparing for various entrance exams at one of its many coaching centres. Many think that the mentoring provided by these institutes goes a long way in helping students secure a place in top ranking engineering and medical colleges. It is perhaps because of this expectation and hope that an overwhelming 85% of students studying in Kota spend as long as six to seven hours in coaching centres every day (**Table 1**). This was one of the findings of a study conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) to understand the rigours of student life in Kota. This is the second data point of a three-part series. The first, titled 'Who goes to Kota's coaching classes and why', was published on November 6.

The amount of time that students spend in coaching centres appears to be determined by the exam for which they are preparing. Among students appearing for JEE and NEET, over 80% reported that they spend six to seven hours daily at the coaching centre. Compare this to the 63% of students who spent as many hours studying for other exams.

Apart from attending classes, students also need to go to their coaching centres in order to appear for tests that are frequently conducted. With the goal of tracking students' performance, most coaching centres hold at least one test every week. This has the potential of putting further pressure on them. However, more than half (54%) of the students in Kota said that these weekly tests are helpful for their preparations. One of every 10 students said they find weekly tests stressful and three of every 10 said that the time between tests should be longer than seven days (**Table 2**). To get some respite from such a hectic schedule, more than eight of every 10 students therefore felt that coaching centres should set one day every week for leisure activities.

For those studying in Kota's coaching centres, the continuous cycle of classes and tests becomes a part of their life for an extensive period of time. At the time of this study, one-third of the students had been in Kota for about a year while another one-fourth for two years. A little over one-third of them said that they feel homesick often, while close to half said that they feel homesick from time to time (**Table 3**). Along with this, 19% of students admitted that they do not have friends in Kota with whom they can share their feelings when they feel low or demotivated. What is nonetheless heartening is that the majority of them have managed to find close friends after shifting to Kota.

During their time in Kota, only two of every 10 students said that they share accommodation with friends. An even lower number said that they stay with parents or siblings. Close to two-thirds of students live alone. The choice of living alone is most likely driven by a desire to have an environment where they can study with few distractions. Students who need to attempt more than once to clear their exams perhaps feel the need to have such a living space even more acutely. This could be the reason why among those who already sat for the exam once, 67% live alone. That figure climbs to 71% with regard to students who have made two attempts. In comparison, 63% live alone from among students who are yet to sit for the exam (**Table 4**).

Beside living alone and following a tight academic schedule, students also face discrimination of various kinds. This can significantly add to the pressure that students already feel owing to the expectation and desire to perform well. A considerable number of them complained about improper behaviour meted out to them due to their caste (21%) and economic situation (26%). Religious identity has been a source of discrimination for 17% of students. Out of them, just over one in five are Hindus while 34% are Muslims. What is more alarming is that nearly half the students (47%) said that they face discrimination over their academic performance.

In order to divert their attention from the daily pressure of classes and exams, the majority of the students (68%) talk to their families. Many tend to use social media or meet friends. Less than half (46%) said that they watch movies or listen to music every day. Only 26% turn to mediation or physical exercise to balance their daily study routine. An even smaller number take to reading that is not related to their syllabus. Fewer students are indulging in these activities not because they are disinterested, but perhaps because they just do not find the time.

Living for long under such a strict regime brings about significant lifestyle changes. Given the routine that they have to follow, the majority of students (50%) have started going to bed later since moving to Kota. At the same time, 32% said that they have started waking up earlier than they used to (**Table 5a**). They use the time gained from sleeping less to study more. Fifty-nine per cent of students now dedicate more time for self-study than they did before. As opposed to 23% whose meal intake has increased, nearly half the students (47%) said that they have started eating less after shifting to Kota (**Table 5b**). Thus, life at Kota is stressful and marked by considerable loneliness.

Abhinav Borbora is a researcher at CSDS; Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at CSDS; Suhas Palshikar taught political science at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, and is chief editor of 'Studies in Indian Politics'; and Jyoti Mishra is a researcher at CSDS

Testing times

The tables are from the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)'s survey of students in Kota

Coaching culture: Students disperse after attending coaching classes in Kota in Rajasthan on Thursday. R V MOORTHY

Table 1: How many hours do you spend daily in coaching centres?

Time spent	(%)
2 to 5 hours	10
6 to 7 hours	85
8 hours and above	5

Table 2: Do you believe that the weekly tests that are conducted in coaching institutions every week are required for students to succeed in entrance exams or do they only serve to increase stress for students?

Students who feel ...	(%)
Weekly tests are helpful	54
Tests can be conducted sometime	30
Weekly tests are stressful	11

Table 3: Most students experience homesickness

How often are students homesick?	(%)
Very often	36
Sometimes	47
Rarely	9
Never	6

Table 4: With whom do you live in your current place of residence in Kota?

Stay alone	Number of attempts
63	Will make first attempt
67	One
71	Two

Table 5a: What time did you usually go to sleep and wake up before /after joining Kota?

Lifestyle changes	Remained the same	Earlier than before	Later than before
Time of sleeping	37	10	50
Time of waking up	37	32	29

Table 5b: How many meals do you get before/after joining Kota? Self-study time before/after joining Kota?

Lifestyle changes	Remained the same	Fewer than before	More than before
Number of meals	46	47	23
Self-study time	33	3	59

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 7, 1973

All-out efforts for West Asia settlement

London, Nov. 6: All-out diplomatic efforts to stabilise the West Asia situation were resumed in several world capitals to-day against a background of growing tension along the ceasefire lines. The peace efforts were being spearheaded by the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, who said after completing his talks in Rabat with the King of Morocco that his talks aimed at paving the way for a solution were useful. "The talks that I had with His Majesty were very useful and gave me a greater understanding of the Arab point of view," he told reporters before flying onto Tunis and Cairo. (Dr. Kissinger has since arrived in Tunis). In Bucharest, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, was meeting the Rumanian Presidet, Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, to discuss the possibility of Rumania using its good offices in achieving a settlement. The round of diplomatic negotiations are completed by a mission by Egyptian envoy Dr. Mohammed Hassan Al Zayyat, who planned to fly from Paris to London to-day for consultations with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath. Dr. Zayyat delivered a personal message from President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to President Pompidou in Paris yesterday. There is growing apprehension in Cairo over the situation along the ceasefire lines, with both sides alleging frequent truce violations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE ISSUE OF NOVEMBER 6, 1923 AS THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON NOVEMBER 7

Mr. Lloyd George

Leafield (Oxford) Mid. Nov 5: Scenes of great enthusiasm took place on the departure of Mr. Lloyd George from America at the conclusion of a highly successful tour. The "Sunday Times" says he has given the people of the United States and Canada "many intimate glimpses into European realities and has stimulated two things, of which we cannot have too much – Canada's interest in the Empire and America's interest in the affairs of Europe." The "Observer" thinks "Mr. Lloyd George has been bold where boldness was wise – is affirmation of principles and discreet in the voicing of those specific steps over which every nations claims its own jealous jurisdiction."

From Page One

Governors delaying Bills a matter of concern: SC

The Advocate-General for Punjab later clarified that three of the seven Bills were Money Bills, of which two had been recommended by the Governor after the petition was filed in the Supreme Court. Four Bills on other subjects, presented to the Governor in July, were still pending with him.

The State, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi along with the Advocate-General, said the Vidhan Sabha was adjourned *sine die* in March and recalled in June by the Speaker under Rule 16 of the Vidhan Sabha Rules to pass the seven Bills. The Governor had objected, saying the session ought to have been prorogued and reconvened.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the Governor was taking "appropriate action" on the Bills presented to him. "There are astonishing things happening here. They keep the Assembly alive, and whenever they want to abuse people, they meet. This is unnecessary litigation. The Governor has taken action. He has dealt with the Bills appropriately by either declaring assent or referring to the President... I do not know. I will seek instructions and come back on Friday [November 10]," Mr. Mehta said.

The court also questioned the Assembly's action to reconvene three months after the Vidhan Sabha was adjourned *sine die* in March.

"The Assembly was summoned on March 3 and adjourned *sine die*, without being prorogued, on March 22. The Speaker then reconvenes the Assembly three months later. Is that really the scheme of the Constitution? Or if there is a break of three months, do you not then prorogue the session. Here, the Budget Session has run into the Monsoon Session," Chief Justice Chandrachud criticised the Punjab government.

Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, for Kerala, intervened at this point to note that the State had also approached the Supreme Court against its Governor holding back crucial Bills. "Some of these Bills have been pending with him for over two years... When the Governor was told the State had approached the apex court, he said, 'Let us see, we will fight it out,'" Mr. Venugopal submitted.

A woman standing outside her house after an earthquake in Nepal on Monday. REUTERS

'Aftershock' rocks Nepal, Delhi

"The area is seismically very active and associated with collisional tectonics where the Indian plate subducts beneath the Eurasian Plate," according to a note from the NCS.

V.K. Gahlaut, seismologist, National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, told *The Hindu* that Monday's quake could also be considered an aftershock.

"There is no hard definition for an aftershock. But given that it is the same region and relatively close in time, it could be one. Look at what happened in Afghanistan," Mr. Gahlaut said.

A series of earthquakes over a week in October struck Afghanistan killing at least 1,000. The November 3 earthquake was the deadliest in Nepal since 2015. That quake was recorded by more than 60 seismic stations installed by NCS. The quakes occurred on the North Almora Thrust (NAT), a region suitably placed to trigger a 'mainshock' due to "...appreciable structural heterogeneity in and around mainshock," the report noted. The occurrence of earthquakes in the region is attributed mainly to the tectonic settings of the Himalayas comprising Himalayan Frontal Thrust (HFT), Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) and Main Central Thrust (MCT) besides several local faults and geological demarcated lineaments, according to the report.

India, Bhutan to discuss new routes of regional connectivity

King Jigme Khesar holds talks with PM; the two sides agree to go ahead with the final survey for the 58-km crossborder rail link between Gelephu and Kokrajhar in Assam; they will also explore a second rail link between Bhutan and West Bengal

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Friendly relations: Narendra Modi meeting Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

India and Bhutan agreed to discuss new routes of regional connectivity and upgrade border and immigration posts to support Bhutan's fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's plans for a smart city at Gelephu on the border between Bhutan and Assam, after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday.

While no mention was made of India's overhanging concerns over Bhutan's border delimitation agreement process with China, the Ministry of External Affairs said the two leaders "held discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues of mutual interest".

Apart from a decision to go ahead with the final survey for the 58-km crossborder rail link between Gelephu and Kokrajhar in Assam to be built by India, the two sides agreed to explore a second rail link for about 18 km between Samtse in Bhutan and Banarhat in West Bengal tea gardens area. India also agreed to allow Bhutanese trade items to be carried further on from Haldibari in West Bengal to Chilahati in Bangladesh. The rail connectivity could in the future assist air connectivity for Indians in the northeast as well, as Bhutan plans to build an international airport at Gelephu as part of the larger Sarpang district Special Economic Zone, new initiative expected to be announced by the Bhutanese King on December 17.

"[The Bhutanese King] shared valuable perspective and insights on ongoing reforms process under way in Bhutan," said a joint statement issued by both countries at the end of the meeting. "Prime Minister [Modi] reaffirmed India's abiding commitment to its unique ties of friendship and cooperation with Bhutan and reiterated continued and full support to the socio-economic development in Bhutan based on the priorities of the Royal Government and as per the vision of His Majesty," it added.

Development assistance

The Bhutanese King also thanked the government for its development assistance for Bhutan's 12th Five-Year plan, (2018-2023) that ended on October 31 this year, and India reiterated its commitment to support the new 13th Five-Year Plan as well.

Apart from the go-ahead for the two short distance crossborder rail link projects, India and Bhutan agreed to designate the Darranga-Samdrup Jongkhar border crossing between Assam and Bhutan's less developed-South Eastern district as an immigration check post, so as to allow third country nationals to enter and exit as well "for enhancing connectivity, and promoting tourism", the joint statement said.

In particular, the two sides agreed to strengthen trade infrastructure with the upgrade of an existing land customs station at Dadgiri (Assam) to a modernised "Integrated Check Post" (ICP) along with "development of facilities on the Bhutanese side at Gelephu".

Easing travel between the two countries, and allowing further exchanges to Bangladesh is expected to help raise Bhutanese opportunities for trade and travel, and bring in much-needed tourism revenues for the neighbouring country. Bhutan's economy, which has been hit by the COVID pandemic and after-effects of a very strict lockdown in the country, is expecting to grow by a modest 4.3%, lower than the sub-regional average, and is expected to face long-term impact due to a net-out migration by its youth, who are seeking education and jobs in other countries. Low forex reserves and a major public debt, with an estimated 125% government debt to GDP ratio in 2022, largely made up of debt to India, are further adding to Bhutan's worries. The Bhutanese King's plans for Gelephu and the special economic zone, which he had first discussed with Mr. Modi during a visit in April 2023, is targeted at increasing opportunities for work and tourism in Bhutan.

King Jigme Khesar will fly to Mumbai, where he is expected to meet with the heads of "top business houses", an official said.

Modi, Iranian President Raisi discuss Gaza crisis

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Continuing high-level international conversations on the Israel-Hamas conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi. The two leaders discussed the situation in Gaza and progress on the Chabahar port. In his remarks, Mr. Raisi called for an "immediate ceasefire" and argued that the situation in Gaza will have "extra-regional consequences".

"Good exchange of perspectives with President Raisi of Iran on the difficult situation in West Asia and the Israel-Hamas conflict. Terrorist incidents, violence and loss of civilian lives are serious concerns. Preventing escalation, ensuring continued humanitarian aid and early restoration of peace and stability are important. Welcomed the progress in our bilateral cooperation, including on the Chabahar port," said Mr. Modi.

The Iranian leader described the Israeli bombing of hospitals, schools, mosques, churches and residential areas as "unacceptable from the point of view of any human being."

Grounds of arrest not given: founder of *NewsClick*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Online news portal *NewsClick* founder Prabir Purkayastha, booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, on Monday told the Supreme Court that investigating authorities should at least supply him with the grounds of his arrest.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Purkayastha, said his plea fell squarely within the ambit of a Supreme Court judgment in the *Pankaj Bansal* case which held that the Enforcement Directorate should provide an accused a written copy of the grounds of his or her arrest. Mr. Purkayastha and *NewsClick* employee Amit Chakraborty had appealed to the court after the Delhi High Court rejected their contentions about "procedural infirmity" and violation of constitutional provisions in relation to the arrest and the remand order.

The court agreed to hear the petition after the Deepavali vacations. Mr. Sibal also sought an interim bail for Mr. Purkayastha on medical grounds.

House panel adopts reports on new criminal law Bills

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

DMK MP N.R. Elango has taken exception to provisions in Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

The Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs on Monday adopted three reports on the Bills that seek to replace the existing criminal laws. All 10 Opposition members will be submitting dissent notes.

The committee could not adopt the report in its last meeting on October 27, after several Opposition leaders sought more time to read the three reports on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) that will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC), 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.

Notes of dissent

Congress MPs Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary and Digvijaya Singh, along with DMK MP N.R. Elango, have filed dissent notes; the others are to follow soon.

Mr. Elango, who was one of the first to submit his dissent note, has taken strong exception to the provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita which has increased the police remand tenure from the present 15 days to 60 days for offences punishable by 10 years or above and 40 days for offences punishable with less punishment. He said that these provisions should be invoked in exceptional cases, otherwise, the magistrates would be discouraged from giving bail.

He also objected to the provision on organised crime in the BNS which he argued would clash with the existing laws in several States such as Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. The BNS also has a provision to deal with terrorism, which Mr. Elango, according to sources, in his dissent note, argued would add unnecessary confusion with the existing Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The draft report has also recommended that there should be parity in punishment for murder and mob lynching. The BNS lays down a minimum of seven years of punishment for cases of mob lynching, while the cases of murders are punishable by life imprisonment or death. To remove this disparity, the committee has suggested that the minimum punishment clause should be removed for mob lynching.

Other concerns

The report on BNS, while taking note of the Supreme Court judgment on Section 377 IPC that decriminalised homosexuality, has suggested that the section should be retained for the cases of "non-consensual carnal intercourse with adults, all acts of carnal intercourse with minors and acts of bestiality, for which there is no provision in the BNS".

The committee, while acknowledging the Supreme Court judgment striking down Section 497 of IPC on adultery, said that the "institution of marriage is considered sacred in Indian society and there is a need to safeguard its sanctity. For the sake of protecting the institution of marriage, this Section should be retained by making it gender neutral". The report on BNSS recommends that handcuffs should not be used on economic offenders.

Baghel, BJP continue to face off over new 'Mahadev app' video

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Bhupesh Baghel

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday said the BJP was fighting elections with the help of the Enforcement Directorate. He was reacting to a video shared by the BJP, in which a man calling himself Shubham Soni claims that he is the real owner of the now-banned Mahadev betting app and had paid ₹508 crore to Mr. Baghel.

"If the ED has issued a press release to defame someone, the Election Commission should take cognisance of it. The ED is issuing a press release and the BJP is releasing the video. The ED is the BJP and the BJP is the ED," Mr. Baghel said on the sidelines of a campaign event..

Earlier, reacting to a question on the Centre banning the app just ahead of the first phase of election in the State, the Chief Minister said the application was still running.

In Bhopal, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar dismissed the Congress's claims of having written to the Centre to ban the app. "The Chhattisgarh police and the Chhattisgarh government started the investigation a year and a half ago, but did not do anything regarding this. They wrote a letter, but no one knows to whom. They just wanted to stretch this investigation so that they can take money from the app. They have received ₹508 crore from the app, and now they need to answer why they took it... ED requested us to block this app yesterday for the first time and we immediately blocked 22 such apps. They did not give any application to the Central government to block this app in these 1.5 years," he said.

In a post on X, Mr. Baghel also questioned whether television channels running the purported footage amounted to defamation.

India, Nepal begin talks on border-related matters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The border guarding forces of India and Nepal started their three-day bilateral meeting in New Delhi on Monday.

The two security forces – the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Armed Police Force (APF) – will be discussing measures to curb trans-frontier crimes and exchange of critical information, the SSB said in a statement.

Collegium recommends Chief Justices of three High Courts for appointment to SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Conscious of the mounting pendency in the Supreme Court and the need to function at its full sanctioned judicial strength of 34 judges, the Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday recommended the Chief Justices of three High Courts for appointment to the apex court.

If appointed, Delhi High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Rajasthan Chief Justice Augustine George Masih and Gauhati High Court Chief justice Sandeep Mehta would fill up the three vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Currently, the court is functioning with 31 judges.

"In view of the ever mounting pendency of cases, the workload of judges has increased considerably. Bearing in mind the above, it has become necessary to ensure that the court has full working judge strength leaving no vacancy at any point of time," the Supreme Court Collegium observed in its resolution on November 6.

Justice Sharma's parent High Court is Madhya Pradesh while those of Justices Masih and Mehta are Punjab and Haryana and Rajasthan, respectively.

Justice Sharma is second in the combined all India seniority of High Court judges.

Justice Masih stands at number seven in the seniority list of High Court judges. He belongs to a minority community.

On Justice Mehta, besides discussing his merit as a judge, the Collegium observed that though the Rajasthan High Court is a large one, it has no representation on the Bench of the Supreme Court.

Two teenage boys missing in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after two teenage boys went missing in Manipur, the police on Monday said three persons have been detained from the hill district of Kangpokpi in connection with the incident.

Fresh tension was reported in the valley areas after the boys, hailing from the Meitei community, went missing. Maibam Avinash, 16, and Ningthoujam Anthony, 19, visited the Sekmai area in Imphal West district on Sunday morning to attend a function. Their phones were found in Senapati district, a Naga-dominated area. The Naga Peoples' Organisation, in a statement, said that miscreants had intentionally dropped the mobile phones of the boys in the area to drag the Nagas into the ongoing conflict.

The Manipur Police said on X, "Three individuals have been detained for further interrogation and verification in connection with the incident. Search operation continues."

Start mobile towers in unaffected areas: HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Manipur High Court on Monday directed the State government to operationalise mobile towers, on a trial basis, in areas not affected by the violence.

This comes a day after the State issued an order extending Internet restrictions till November 8, but also said it was going to operationalise mobile towers in districts not affected by the ethnic violence.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

Cong. calls for action over video of Tomar's son

A clip purportedly showing Devendra Pratap Singh Tomar, son of Union Minister and BJP candidate from Dimani seat Narendra Singh Tomar, discussing "transactions worth crores of rupees" went viral in Madhya Pradesh, leading to criticism from the Congress.

At a rally, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Monday, "A video of Agriculture Minister's son came up yesterday. You must have seen him talking about thousands of crores." Mr. Devendra, terming the video "fake", has registered a complaint. Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said, "Modi *ji* is very fond of playing ED-ED, but here it seems that there is talk of bribes worth hundreds of crores of rupees. It seems the ED, CBI, and Income Tax have gone quiet here." Mr. Tomar is a powerful Minister. A fair probe isn't possible until his son is arrested, she said.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra spoke about the video clip at a rally in Madhya Pradesh. PTI

EC postpones meet with Cong. delegation

The Congress on Monday criticised the Election Commission for cancelling a scheduled appointment, which the party had sought to urge the panel to stop the "misuse"of Enforcement Directorate by the Centre during the Assembly elections. The poll panel had agreed to meet the Congress delegation on Monday, but has postponed it to a later date citing its busy schedule. The poll panel said that it will be able to meet the leaders only on November 8 or 9, which Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said would defeat the purpose, since polling for first 20 Chhattisgarh Assembly seats would be completed by then.

"It is definitely an attempt to obstruct free and fair elections, it is definitely an attempt to muddy the field because the BJP knows that they are losing badly," Mr. Singhvi said.

> In Modi era, the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. Modi is thinking of the poor now because polls are approaching
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president

Tripura Congress leader lauds unique campaign

Congress leader Asish Kumar Saha on Monday lauded Mizoram's unique election campaign style and said that the party will return to power. The unique style ensures a balanced campaign, officials said, adding, even if a party has resources, it cannot hold a rally without the nod of the Mizoram People's Forum. PTI

> When nobody in the Opposition bloc trusts the Congress, how can people in Madhya Pradesh believe in that party?
>
> **SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN**
> Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

Blood ties: A roadshow in Narmadapuram in support of the BJP candidate for Hoshangabad, Sitasharan Sharma, ahead of the Madhya Pradesh election. PTI

Brother versus brother or keeping it in-house? M.P. seat poses query

Nistula Hebbar
HOSHANGABAD

For the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, the keen contest in Madhya Pradesh is perhaps best exemplified by the face-off between the Sharma brothers in the Hoshangabad constituency. Sitasharan Sharma, MLA and BJP candidate, is contesting against elder brother Girija Shankar Sharma from the Congress, but local people are looking at it with a jaundiced eye.

The way the Congress and BJP leaders tell the story, Mr. Girija Shankar, who was earlier with the BJP and had been MLA from Itarsi before the 2006 delimitation, had wanted to contest the election from Hoshangabad on behalf of the BJP. He got trumped by Mr. Sitasharan, former Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker, who has been representing the seat since 2013. The Congress, in order to challenge the BJP in a seat where the latter rarely loses, fielded the disgruntled elder brother.

"There is nothing unusual in this face-off, it derives from our *Sanskar* itself. As in the Mahabharata, Karna and Arjuna are brothers but on opposite sides. Karna, despite being a good man, fights on the side of *adharma* and Arjuna fights for *dharma*," says Mr. Sitasharan, obviously positing himself as Arjuna rather than Karna. "The contest between us is ideological and not personal at all," he says adding that they even share an accountant.

Nevertheless, to avoid awkward social encounters while campaigning against each other, Mr. Sitasharan says he is determined not to meet his brother till after November 17, the polling day. "And I will win," he adds.

Local perspective

All these seem like fighting words, but Sanjay Jaiswal, sitting outside the Narmadapuram District Collectorate (Hoshangabad district was renamed as Narmadapuram), shooting the breeze, is not impressed. "*Ghee toh ek hi matka main jayega* [the butter will be put in the same vessel]," he says, alluding to the fact that irrespective of who wins, it will be a victory chalked down to the Sharma family.

Abdul Sadiq, who runs a tea stall next to the collectorate, has an even stronger suggestion. "This time round, you should vote for a third person, someone like Bhagwati Choure," he says, referring to an Independent candidate in the fray.

"All the yojanas, etc., are just lollipops, we need someone who will work for the area," he adds.

Mr. Choure, in fact, has long been associated with the Sharma family and was hopeful of BJP ticket as well, filing two sets of nominations while awaiting the B-form issued by the BJP, which failed to arrive. His second set of nominations, as an Independent, was accepted after scrutiny.

Politics, it is said, recognises no blood ties and it seems the Madhya Pradesh election is a true demonstration of that.

FOR FULL COVERAGE OF ASSEMBLY POLLS
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https://newsth.live/elections

Buffeted by Manipur storm, Mizoram keeps its own counsel

Today's contest is expected to be triangular among the ruling MNF, regional challenger ZPM, and Congress as in 2018, but the equation has been changed by the theme of 'Zo unification' after ethnic clashes broke out in the neighbouring State

CURTAIN RAISER

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The election to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly will be held on Tuesday with 8,57,063 voters, including 4,39,026 women.

The plight of the Kuki-Zomi people of Manipur who are ethnically related to the Mizos of Mizoram has been a major poll issue in the State with the ruling Mizo National Front being the most vocal about it.

The MNF, headed by Chief Minister Zoramthanga, is contesting all 40 seats. Regional challenger Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and the Congress are also contesting all the seats followed by the BJP in 23 and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in four. There are 27 Independent candidates. As was the case in 2018, the election this time is expected to be a triangular contest among the MNF, the ZPM, and the Congress despite the BJP putting in efforts to up its tally from one seat five years ago.

But observers say the election this time is more unpredictable. The MNF, battling an anti-incumbency current, is banking on the issue of "Zo unification" to retain power. The term refers to bringing all largely Christian communities belonging to the Zo family – Mizos, Kuki-Zomis, Chins of Myanmar, and Kuki-Chins of Bangladesh – together.

The MNF had been rattled by the ZPM's rise in urban centres after the latter swept the civic body elections in central Mizoram's Lunglei in April. But the Manipur crisis offered the MNF a lifeline, particularly after more than 12,500 (now about 11,000) Kuki-Zomi people from Manipur took refuge in Mizoram.

In its election manifesto, the MNF pledged that the Zos would be united with "higher authority" in accordance with the United Nations 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The MNF stoked the Zo sentiments again when the government defied the Centre's directive and refused to collect the biometric and biographic data of more than 34,000 Chins and Kuki-Chins from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Gearing up: EVMs being loaded in a truck on the eve of the Mizoram Assembly elections, in Aizawl. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"We have people with same affinity in Manipur. They are in favour of the MNF's return to power," Mr. Zoramthanga told *The Hindu* a few days ago.

His government, however, faced flak for allegedly "cheating" the people with the flagship Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) that helped it end 10 years of the Congress rule. The SEDP promised beneficiaries ₹3 lakh each for agriculture and allied activities, but the Congress alleged only ₹25,000 was provided, and that too for MNF workers.

SEDP issue

The Chief Minister said the SEDP, unlike the New Land Use Policy of the Congress, was a success and blamed his government's inability to fulfil some of its 2018 promises on COVID-19 and the refugee problem from Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Manipur. He attributed the rising drug problem in the State to the political crisis in Myanmar.

The MNF won 27 seats in 2018 followed by the ZPM with eight (all contesting as Independents then), the Congress five and the BJP one. The ZPM, which lost two seats later after the byelections, hopes to defeat the MNF by promising a "new system of governance" and a corruption-free government riding on fresh faces.

While the MNF has been distancing itself from the "anti-Christian" BJP in the State despite being a constituent of the NDA, the ZPM has been staving off allegations that it struck a deal with the BJP to form a government. The theory gained currency after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the MNF and the ZPM were entry points for the BJP in Mizoram.

The Congress is upbeat about returning to power as it feels the people would reject both the MNF and ZPM for aligning with the BJP. "People know the Congress will never join hands with the Hindutva-professing BJP," State Congress chief Lalsawta said. He said shepherding the party after the retirement of five-time Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla was a major challenge. The BJP, on the other hand, focused on seven seats in four districts – Lawngtlai, Lunglei, Mamit, and Siaha – where the minority Lai, Chakma, Bru, and Mara people have a sizeable population.

Farmers seek action on smuggling of areca nut

Rahul Karmakar
MAMIT (MIZORAM)

For Biakdika and four others, manning a "check-gate" at Zamuang on northern Mizoram's boundary with Assam for 12 hours in turns takes some quality time away from their areca nut plantations. It is a small price to pay, they say, in the battle to protect livelihoods from a threat smuggled in through the State's southern and south-eastern border with Myanmar – dried areca nuts from Southeast Asia.

The gate set up by the Hachhek Areca Nut Farmers' Association (HANFA) is a message for whichever party forms the government in Mizoram: set up similar checkpoints along the 510-km Mizoram-Myanmar border.

"Dried areca nuts, which attract 100% import duty the legal way, have been smuggled in from Myanmar over the past few years, but areca nut farmers in Mizoram started feeling the pinch when the Assam government imposed restrictions on the entry of areca nuts about two years ago," HANFA secretary Kanan Lalhlimawma said.

"What we want is a government that will spare us the trouble of manning check-gates, which is the duty of security forces," Mr. Lalhlimawma said.

Amid hostile topography and extremism, a battle of ballot

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

A drive through the villages scattered around the newly completed Palli-Barsur Marg (PBM), part of an arterial State Highway in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, exposes the accessibility and security challenges of people in this Naxal heartland.

The road connects Palli village in Narayanpur district with Barsur town in Dantewada district. It cuts through the Dantewada, Bijapur, Chitrakot, Narayanpur and Kondagaon Assembly constituencies.

Sadar and Mangnar villages in Bijapur constituency, on either side of the Indravati river, are among villages that stand to benefit from the road. While Sadar (pronounced as 'radar') is right next to the road, the journey to Mangnar involves traversing a few kilometres of rocky terrain, followed by a narrow and shallow stream, which is part of the Indravati river. Those who have two-wheelers or bicycles have to park them on the other side of the stream. A government employee, who is one such commuter, says when the water level rises, things get much worse.

"When the Indravati is raging in the peak monsoon months, the village of nearly 900 residents is cut off from the rest of the region. The functioning of the health centres and the anganwadi is also affected," he says.

Samadhur Botsalam, a resident of Mangnar, is cycling back to Barsur town, nearly 10 km to the south. He doesn't mind the cycling – for he is used to it – but his concern is a "warning" that the Maoists, who occupy the dense jungles around Mangnar, have issued. "They send us messages through fellow villagers and ask us not to vote; I do not know what to do," he says.

In the Bijapur constituency, the main contest is between Vikram Mandavi of the Congress and Mahesh Gagda of the BJP. But with his dilemma being about voting itself, Mr. Botsalam hopes whosoever wins improves the security situation.

Sensitive region

Bijapur is among the constituencies declared "highly sensitive" by the government. Of the 12 Assembly constituencies in the Bastar region, all of which are going to the polls in the first phase on Tuesday, four each have been categorised as "highly sensitive", "moderately sensitive", and "less sensitive".

Just as Mr. Botsalam, residents of many villages along the road, even those in Narayanpur district, depend a lot on Barsur as it is the major town in the region.

Road less travelled: Of the 12 Assembly constituencies in the Bastar region, four each have been categorised as highly sensitive, moderately sensitive, and less sensitive. SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

Back in Barsur, Ganesh Babu, a doctor at the government hospital, explains the significance of the town.

"Although the marked catchment population [of the hospital] is 20,000, due to its accessibility from villages in Narayanpur and Bijapur districts and parts of Bastar, it is the main hospital for nearly 50,000 people. The new road has certainly expanded that," he says.

Moncy Samson who drives the ambulance for the hospital, says connectivity to Barsur town, which has climbed up the development ladder at a brisk pace in the last decade and a half, not only helps him transport more patients from the interior villages, but has created other opportunities too. Among them, according to Amulkar Nag, a Congress-rebel turned Independent candidate from Dantewada constituency, are jobs.

Seeds of growth

The setting up of a garment factory, Dannex, with assistance from the district administration in Barsur, has raised hopes. Sunita Mandavi from Hitametta, a village further down the road, uses vehicles arranged by the company to reach the factory daily and earns ₹7,000 a month, an amount much higher than what she would have earned by stitching clothes.

In total, the factory, which prepares garments for an online apparel company headquartered in Bengaluru, provides jobs to 500-700 women in the Naxal belt of Dantewada and adjoining areas, says Sandhya Pillai who is the manager of the factory.

In Airpund, another hamlet along the road that falls in the Chitrakot Assembly segment, a group of BJP workers are preparing for a campaign march in support of their candidate Vinayak Goyal, who is contesting against State president of the ruling Congress, Deepak Baij. One can observe the cadre getting agitated at the mention of Mr. Baij. One of them, Budru Ram Mandavi, 50, says the Congress's main plank in these elections has been the special schemes rolled out for paddy farmers and tendu leaves collectors. However, the schemes have been ineffective, he says. "I have been unable to register myself as a farmer. This is true for many of the villagers around. What has happened to the claim of buying 'each grain'? Also, there are no collection centres for tendu leaves nearby. What's the point of providing 'bonus money' if it is spent on transportation," he says, as others nod.

The hint of anti-incumbency against the ruling party, which won all 12 seats in the Bastar region last time, also resonates in conversations further up north as one moves towards Narayanpur.

Surendra Setia, a farmer in Kadenar village, which is part of Kondagaon district and Narayanpur Assembly constituency, appreciates the work on farm loan waivers and increased procurement prices for paddy, but is not happy with the local MLA Chandan Kashyap because "ponds and borewells have only come up in other areas of Narayanpur". Congress workers in the Bastar region admit that the fight in Narayanpur, where the BJP has fielded former Minister Kedar Kashyap, will be tough.

The Congress is promising ₹3,200 for every quintal of paddy along with a farm loan waiver, while the BJP has promised ₹3,100 as the parties are vying for the farmer vote bank. But as farming expands its footprint in the Bastar region and with the pole position agriculture has occupied in these elections, the farmers in the tail-end areas demand more.

"Why should the farmer be happy with ₹3,000 he has received so far? Don't the people who are in jobs in cities expect hikes? It's the same for everyone," says Mr. Setia, as he signs off and resumes the harvesting work he had paused for the interaction.

INBRIEF

Pannun threat: extra security check for Air India flights

Air India passengers boarding flights from Delhi and Punjab airports will undergo additional security frisking, according to the latest order issued after a video threat by designated Khalistani terrorist Gurupatwant Singh Pannun. All Air India passengers at Delhi and Punjab airports will be put through a "secondary ladder point check", under which the airline staff frisk travellers and their hand luggage after the clearance from the CISF and just before boarding the aircraft, according to an order issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security on Monday. Entry of visitors to the terminal building of the Indira Gandhi International Airport and the sale of visitor entry tickets will also be banned.

Amarnath shrine in Kashmir sees first vehicular movement

Once out of bounds, the Amarnath shrine located at an altitude of 13,000 feet has seen the first-ever movement of four-wheelers. "The Border Roads personnel completed the formidable task and created history with the first set of vehicles reaching the holy cave," a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) spokesman said, in a post on X. The BRO's Project Beacon is involved in the restoration of Amarnath Yatra tracks.

Odd-even vehicle rotation scheme to return in Delhi

Environment Minister Gopal Rai says in-person classes to be suspended in all schools till November 10, except for students of Classes 10 and 12 as air quality in national capital stays 'severe'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As air pollution in Delhi touched about 18 times the limit set by the World Health Organization on Monday, Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced that the government would implement an odd-even vehicle rotation scheme in the city from November 13 to 20 to reduce air pollution.

Mr. Rai said that to prioritise the health of schoolchildren, the government had decided to suspend in-person classes in all schools, except for students of Classes 10 and 12. Schools in Delhi up to Class 5 were initially closed till November 10, and now it has been extended to include Classes 6 to 9 and 11. "Online classes can continue. There is no bar on Board exams for Class 10 and 12," he said.

The Minister said the odd-even system would be implemented anticipating a spike in air pollution after Deepavali. After studying the situation following the implementation, a decision would be taken on the future course of action, he added. The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal earlier in the day.

Hazy picture: A thick blanket of smog covers the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

The odd-even scheme entails allowing vehicles whose registration number ends in even digits to ply on even dates and those with odd digits to ply only on odd dates. On odd days, only vehicles with licence plates ending in one, three, five, seven, and nine will be allowed, while on even days, vehicles with numbers ending with zero, two, four, six, and eight will be allowed to operate. The scheme has been implemented multiple times in the past in Delhi to check rising air pollution, including in 2019.

On Sunday, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) directed that State governments may consider additional emergency measures such as an odd-even scheme.

Criticising the move, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the odd-even scheme had no scientific research basis or data to support its effectiveness. He said that by bringing in the odd-even scheme, the Kejriwal government was punishing Delhiites for its own failure to curb pollution causes such as crop residue burning and clearing dust and construction debris from roadside.

Air pollution rises in Delhi and many other parts of North India during winter, mainly due to meteorological factors but pollution from stubble burning adds to it.

Meanwhile, air pollution in Delhi continued to be in the "severe" category on Monday, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was 421 at 4 p.m. on Monday, down from 454 on Sunday, as per the CPCB's daily official bulletin. But by 8 p.m., the AQI rose to 414 ("severe" category). An AQI reading between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe', and 451 and 500 'severe plus'.

Come out with policy for providing sanitary napkins at schools: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Centre four weeks to finalise and place on record an "optimum" menstrual hygiene policy with focus on the distribution of sanitary napkins. The court further directed the Union government to set down a national model for the number of girls' toilets per female population across government-aided and residential schools in the country.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, senior advocate Vibha Makhija, for the petitioner, said the case had been pending since 2011. The government counsel responded that a draft policy had already been circulated for comments among various stakeholders. The final policy would be ready in four weeks.

Ms. Makhija said certain States had already been implementing their own schemes for distribution of sanitary napkins. In Tamil Nadu, she said, 18 packets with six napkins each were given to girls.

"Even that would not be adequate for a young girl of that age..." the Chief Justice reacted.

Ms. Makhija said the northeastern States had also shown progressiveness with their own schemes.

"The Union of India should duly consider the practices followed in these States and come out with an optimum policy to ensure that an adequate number of sanitary napkins are made available to students in schools," the court ordered.

To serve as a catalyst

The Centre maintained in the published draft of the policy that it would serve as a "catalyst to raise awareness, challenge societal norms and foster a society that embraces menstrual hygiene as a natural and normal part of life".

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) found a significant improvement in the percentage of women aged 15-24 who use a hygienic method of protection during their menstrual cycle, rising from 58% in NFHS-4 to 78%, it said.

Indian govt. is harassing us, rights groups write to FATF

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Indian government of prosecuting and harassing human rights activists, and non-profit organisations on the pretext of countering terrorist financing, Amnesty International, Charity & Security Network (C&SN), and Human Rights Watch (HRW) have sought the intervention of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The statement came days before the start of FATF's periodic review of India's performance with respect to the action taken against money laundering and terrorist funding.

They have accused the authorities of exploiting FATF's recommendations "to restrict civic space and stifle the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly".

In the past 10 years, the authorities had cancelled FCRA licences of over 20,600 NGOs, they said.

'Quad's IPMDA initiative proof of our commitment to a free Indo-Pacific'

Dinakar Peri
PANAJI

The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative, announced by the Quad grouping, is a testament to the commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar says, stressing that building networks and partnerships will be instrumental in ensuring the security and stability of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). On force modernisation, he said the Navy is on track to have 170 to 180 ships and submarines by 2028.

"This initiative [IPMDA] seeks to establish a comprehensive system for monitoring and securing maritime activities in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring the safety of critical sea lines of communication, and promoting cooperation among like-minded nations in the region," Admiral Hari Kumar said in a conversation with *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the fourth Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) held in Panaji from October 29 to 31. "We understand the significance of this region for global peace and prosperity, and we are dedicated to working with our Quad partners and other regional nations to make the Indo-Pacific a safer and more stable place for all."

Admiral R. Hari Kumar

The IPMDA was announced by the Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan and U.S., at the Tokyo summit in early 2022 to track "dark shipping" and build a "faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners' waters", integrating three critical regions in the Indo-Pacific – the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the IOR.

"Sixty-six out of 68 ships under construction are being built at Indian shipyards. Further, 24 ships under contract conclusion will similarly be indigenous – our aim is for the Navy to be fully *Aatmanirbhar* by 2047," Admiral Kumar said.

Need for readiness

To a question on lessons from recent events from the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh, the conflicts in Ukraine and now in West Asia, Admiral Kumar said these events serve as a stark reminder of the need for resilience and readiness. These crises have also highlighted the importance of maintaining a versatile naval force that can secure our maritime interests, including energy and trade routes, as well as supply chain vulnerabilities, he stated.

On the biennial GMC, Admiral Kumar said it had emerged as a critical platform for fostering cooperation and addressing maritime security challenges in the IOR.

Establishment of robust mechanisms for information sharing, such as through the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located at Gurugram, had greatly improved the situational awareness in the region.

"Sharing of intelligence and information also contributed to enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness [MDA]. This has not only improved maritime security but also allowed for better management of marine resources and environmental protection," he said.

He said the centre would seek to strengthen collaborative partnerships with like-minded nations and organisations. "These partnerships will involve sharing best practices, conducting joint exercises, and fostering a sense of collective responsibility," the Navy chief added.

Heeralal Samariya is Chief Information Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya was on Monday sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) by President Droupadi Murmu. He is the first person from the Dalit community to hold the post.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh were among those who attended the swearing-in.

The 63-year-old retired IAS officer of the 1985 batch was born in the remote village of Pahadi in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. Mr. Samariya has held positions as Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Telangana. He was sworn in as an Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission on November 7, 2020.

Heeralal Samariya

The post of the CIC had been lying vacant since October 3 following the completion of Y.K. Sinha's tenure. On October 30, the Supreme Court asked both the Centre and the State governments to take steps to fill vacant posts in the CIC and the State Information Commissions.

After taking charge, Mr. Samariya administered the oath of office to two Information Commissioners – Anandi Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari – at the Central Information Commission.

Govt. expands 'Bharat Atta' sale to curb rising prices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With wheat flour (*atta*) becoming costly around the festival season, the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry on Monday released more stocks of the 'Bharat' brand *atta* through 100 mobile vans and the outlets of Kendriya Bhandar, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) here.

Bharat *Atta* will be available at ₹27.50 a kg. The national average price of flour as on Monday was ₹35.93.

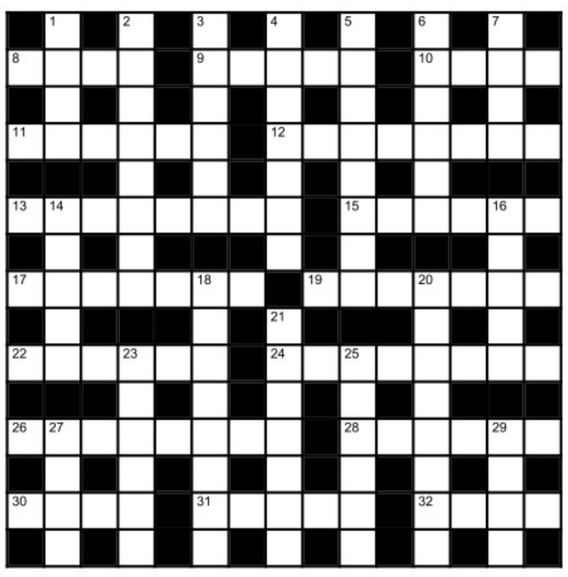
"The launch of retail sale of Bharat *Atta* will increase supplies in the market at affordable rates, and will help in continued moderation of prices of this important food item," Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal said, flagging off the sale.

TH CROSSWORD + 14014

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Bottle opener with everyone for dance event (4)
9 Pilot leader, during attack, is fast (5)
10 Old enclosure's not shut (4)
11 Aye, was difficult to make path across the Arctic, for example (6)
12 Unusually silent journalist drafted (8)
13 Queens and ranis sat fidgeting (8)
15 Damage one brace covering malocclusion at first (6)
17 Order guy on romantic outing (7)
19 Breathe on pointed top of tower (7)
22 Chefs put umbrellas covering spit? (6)
24 One claim adjusted to obtain source of fuel (4,4)
26 Vanquished? Great work, indeed! (8)
28 Rest! Oh, rest sprawling around (6)
30 Type of sandwich containing egg for sprinter (4)
31 Dodge female around this time (5)
32 Inscribe, "Chinese following alien" (4)

Down

1 Game over, friend (4)
2 Girl moved down and scowled (8)
3 Colouring material may be cyan or...? (6)
4 Placate animal consuming some legume seeds (7)
5 Singer receives help in city (8)
6 Spot refills (4,2)
7 Keep wild dog (4)
14 A public representative goes behind saint to get postal sticker (5)
16 I managed to carry some mail for former Pakistani PM (5)
18 Love apples and some other fruits (8)
20 Public address by parliamentarian starting to hustle and rent tract (8)
21 One tin having small diameter for person from US north-east or Canadian south-east (7)
23 Score 4!-4! (6)
25 Covet a flying bird (6)
27 God mentioned in the Rosetta? (4)
29 Endless mountains in the US tremble (4)

SUDOKU

6	2		8	9				
5								
	1		3			6		4
		6		5	2	3		
3		2	6		1	5		7
		7	9	4		8		
2		5			9		7	
								5
				7	4		6	9

No.SS5971 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	2	7	1	4	5	9	6
7	6	4	5	9	8	1	3	2
5	1	9	6	2	3	4	8	7
4	7	8	1	3	2	6	5	9
3	2	6	8	5	9	7	4	1
1	9	5	4	7	6	8	2	3
2	8	1	9	6	5	3	7	4
6	5	3	2	4	7	9	1	8
9	4	7	3	8	1	2	6	5

FAITH

Don't commercialise bhakti

Faith in the Supreme Being and total submission to a guru are the two time-tested ways to attain spiritual enlightenment. Belief that God will take care of one is present in most of us but we do not always espouse guru bhakti. We should never try to outperform our gurus. Bhakti should never be commercialised and our scriptural history is replete with examples of humility among the highly evolved, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

One of the oft-told tales of Kabir Das is of his search for a guru to receive *upadesam*. Raised in another religion, Kabir was an ardent devotee of Rama and was desirous of learning more. He was keen to receive *upadesam* from a seer, however, his sishyas shoo Kabir away. Observing the seer's ritual of bathing in the Ganga, Kabir lay down on the steps and the seer, stepping on him, is contrite and exclaims, 'Ram, Ram'. Kabir treated this as guru mantra. There is somewhat similar narrative of a farmer in Tamil Nadu who sought the initiation of a guru. He approached a renowned seer, and while he was crossing the river he fell at his feet. The seer admonished him saying, "Keep your distance" [*dhoora po]* in Tamil. The farmer took this as his mantra and went on to meditate with full faith. Soon, the power of his mind to dispel movable and immovable things from one's proximity became legendary.

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa to recall all diplomats from Israel due to Gaza situation

AFP

The South African government said on Monday it would recall all its diplomats from Israel to signal its concern over the Gaza situation. Pretoria also said the position of the Israeli Ambassador was becoming "more and more untenable", accusing the envoy of making "disparaging remarks" about people criticising Israel. AFP

BINT JBEIL

Woman, 3 children killed by Israeli air strike in Lebanon, say officials

AP

An Israeli air strike in south Lebanon on Sunday evening killed four civilians, including a woman and three children, raising the likelihood of a dangerous new escalation in the conflict on the Lebanon-Israel border. Lebanon's caretaker PM, Najib Mikati, condemned Israel for the attack, calling it a "heinous crime". AP

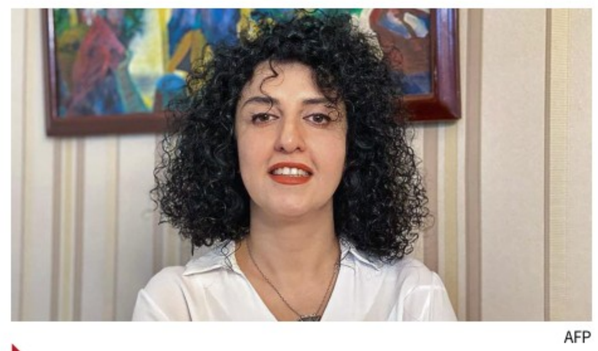
PARIS

Muslim prayer at Paris airport stirs controversy; govt. vows 'firmness'

Images of Muslim travellers in collective prayer at a French airport have caused controversy, with the government on Monday vowing 'firmness' and the airport operator describing the incident as regrettable. The pictures showed several travellers in the departure hall of the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris praying together. AFP

DUBAI

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi goes on hunger strike



AFP

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi, 51, began a hunger strike on Monday over being blocked together with other inmates from getting medical care and to protest the country's mandatory headscarves for women. Iranian officials did not immediately acknowledge Ms. Mohammadi's hunger strike. AP

Israeli forces cut off north Gaza as toll passes 10,000

Casualties are likely to rise as the war turns to close urban combat; troops are expected to enter Gaza City soon, Israeli media reported, and Hamas militants are likely to fight street by street

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Countless souls: A man amid the bodies of those killed in Israeli attack in Deir Balah on Monday. AFP

Israeli forces severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory and pounded it with intense air strikes overnight into Monday, setting the stage for an expected push into the dense confines of Gaza City and an even bloodier phase of the month-old war.

Already, the Palestinian death toll passed 10,000, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Monday. The Ministry does not distinguish between fighters and civilians. Some 1,400 Israelis have died, mostly civilians killed in the October 7 incursion by Hamas that started the war.

The figures mark a grim milestone in what has quickly become the deadliest round of Israeli-Palestinian violence since Israel's establishment 75 years ago, with no end in sight as Israel vows to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities.

Casualties are only likely to rise as the war turns to close urban combat. Troops are expected to enter Gaza City soon, Israeli media reported, and Palestinian militants who have had years to prepare are likely to fight street by street, launching ambushes from a vast network of tunnels.

"We're closing in on them," said Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesman. "We've completed our encirclement, separating Hamas strongholds in the north from the south."

The military said it struck 450 targets overnight and ground troops took over a Hamas compound. A one-way corridor for residents to flee south remains available for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in Gaza City and other parts of the north, according to the military.

Some 1.5 million Palestinians, or around 70% of Gaza's population, have fled their homes since the war began. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and UN-run schools-turned-shelters are beyond capacity. Many people are sleeping on the streets outside.

Mobile phone and Internet service went down overnight, the third territory-wide outage since the start of the war, but was gradually restored on Monday. Aid workers say the outages make it even harder for civilians to seek safety or call ambulances.

Israel has so far rejected U.S. suggestions for a pause in fighting to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries. Israel has also dismissed calls for a broader cease-fire from increasingly alarmed Arab countries – including Jordan and Egypt, which made peace with it decades ago.

Palestinian activist held for 'inciting terror: Israel

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli Army said on Monday it had arrested the prominent 22-year-old Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi during a raid in the occupied West Bank.

"Ahed Tamimi was arrested on suspicion of inciting violence and terrorist activities in the town of Nabi Salih" near the city of Ramallah, an Army spokesperson said.

The activist was arrested during an Israeli Army raid "aimed at apprehending individuals suspected of being involved in terrorist activities and incitement to hatred" in the north of the West Bank, the spokesperson added.

When inquired about the reasons for her arrest, a security source forwarded an Instagram post, which has circulated widely on social media and is attributed to the young activist. According to the post, written in Arabic and Hebrew, she called for the massacre of Israelis in explicitly violent terms, referring to Hitler.

Blinken wraps up West Asia tour with limited success

Associated Press
ANKARA

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up a gruelling West Asia diplomatic tour on Monday in Turkiye after only limited success in efforts to forge a regional consensus on how best to ease civilian suffering in Gaza as Israel intensifies its war against Hamas.

In the Turkish capital of Ankara, Mr. Blinken met with Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan following a frantic weekend of travel that took him from Israel to Jordan, the occupied West Bank, Cyprus and Iraq, to build support for the Biden administration's proposal for "humanitarian pauses" to Israel's relentless military campaign in Gaza.

"All of this is a work in progress," Mr. Blinken said before leaving Turkiye. "We don't obviously agree on everything, but there are common views on some of the imperatives of the moment that we're working on together."

Mr. Blinken's shuttle diplomacy came as Israeli troops surrounded Gaza City and cut off the northern part of the besieged Hamas-ruled territory. Troops are expected to enter the city on Monday or Tuesday, and are likely to face militants fighting street by street using a vast network of tunnels. Casualties will likely rise on both sides in the month-old war, which has already killed more than 10,000 Palestinians.

Antony Blinken

The top U.S. diplomat hopes that pauses in the war would allow for a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza and the release of hostages captured by Hamas during the militants' deadly October 7 incursion into southern Israel that killed more than 1,400 people, mostly civilians – while also preventing the conflict from spreading regionally.

Mr. Blinken did not meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who has been highly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and an outlier among NATO allies in not expressing full support for Israel's right to defend itself.

As the Blinken-Fidan meeting got under way, dozens of protesters from an Islamist group waved Turkish and Palestinian flags and held up anti-U.S. and anti-Israel placards outside the Foreign Ministry.

Dull response

Mr. Blinken's mission, his second to the region since the war began, has found only tepid, if any, support for his efforts to contain the fallout from the conflict.

Israel has rejected the idea of pauses while Arab and Muslim nations are instead demanding an immediate ceasefire as the casualty toll soars among Palestinian civilians under Israeli bombardments of Gaza.

Australian and Chinese leaders meet in Beijing

Associated Press
BEIJING

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday on the first visit by an Australian leader to China in seven years as the two countries try to mend their tattered ties.

Chinese state media reported the meeting but did not provide details. The talks were expected to focus on trade as China has eased some of the restrictive steps it took. Mr. Albanese called for cooperation while emphasising that the two countries will continue to have differences.

Trump testifies at NY fraud trial that estimates of assets were inaccurate

Reuters
NEW YORK

Donald Trump on Monday said that financial estimates of many of his properties were inaccurate as he testified in a civil fraud trial in New York that threatens to diminish the real estate empire that built his reputation. But the former U.S. President sought to minimise the importance of the valuation estimates that state lawyers said were inflated to win better financing terms.

"They just weren't a very important element in the bank's process, and we'll explain that as this trial goes along, as this crazy trial goes along," Mr. Trump said.

Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled those estimates to be fraudulent. New York state lawyers argue that they misled lenders and insurers, earning him $100 million and exaggerating his wealth by $2 billion.

China urges Myanmar to cooperate to maintain stability on the border

Reuters
BEIJING

Myanmar has been in chaos since a 2021 military coup unseated Suu Kyi's elected government

Myanmar should cooperate with China to maintain stability on their common border, a Chinese official said on Monday, after a surge of fighting in Myanmar between junta forces and insurgents rocked the region.

Last week, Myanmar's ruling military said it was trying to restore order near the border after an alliance of ethnic minority armies battling for self-determination launched a series of coordinated attacks on junta targets.

"Myanmar is called on to cooperate with China to maintain stability along the China-Myanmar border, earnestly ensure the safety of the lives and property of Chinese border residents, and take effective measures to strengthen the security of Chinese personnel," said Nong Rong, assistant Chinese Foreign Minister.

A spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling military was not immediately available for comment.

The Asia Times news site reported that one Chinese citizen was killed and several were wounded on Saturday when a shell fired by the Myanmar military overshot its target and struck on the Chinese side of the border.

Mr. Nong, who visited Myanmar between November 3-5, said China hoped Myanmar would restore stability, and it supported all parties to properly handle differences and achieve reconciliation through dialogue as soon as possible.

Thailand is trying to bring home 162 of its nationals trapped by the fighting in Myanmar. Myanmar has been in chaos since a military coup in February 2021 unseated a democratically elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Pro-democracy insurgent groups have in some areas teamed up with ethnic minority guerrillas who have been campaigning for decades for greater autonomy to battle junta forces.

While Western governments have condemned the Myanmar military and imposed sanctions on it, China, along with Russia, have been supportive of the generals. China says it supports Myanmar in finding its own path and has urged the international community to respect its sovereignty.

Mr. Nong, during his visit, visited a 793-km natural gas pipeline, part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure and energy network, linking Ramree Island on the Myanmar west coast with the Chinese border city Ruili in Yunnan Province.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 144/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM, 145/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM (1) JJM CWSS To Vellanad Aruvikkara and Karakulam Pts - Construction of 15 LL OHSR, Construction of booster pump house, Providing and laying Transmission main from Vellaripara to Kuthirakulam and other allied works in Vellanad Pt (2) CWSS to Kallara & Adj Pts - Construction of 15 LL GLSR at KT Kunnu-Vembayam, Transmission Main and main Distribution main from KT Kunnu. **EMD** : Rs. 500000/- EACH, **Tender fee** : Rs. 19518/- EACH, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 28-11-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone** : 04712322303
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

KWA-JB-GL-6-1530-2023-24

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
Expression of Interest (EOI)

SAGARMALA

EOI No: EST-OFC-ES-ALT VOCPA-V1-23 / D.3166 **Dated: 06.11.2023**

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOCPA) is one of the 12 Major Ports in India and the second largest Port in Tamil Nadu. The Port is an Autonomous body under the administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India.During the year 2022 – 2023, Port handled 38.04 MT Cargoes.

2. In order to improve the Trade of VOCPA in higher level, it is proposed to establish a V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority Trade Promotion Centre cum Guest House at Chennai.

3. Therefore, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority invites **Expression of Interest** for purchase of a Constructed Building along with car parking with an approximate carpet area ranging from 5,000 square feet to 6,000 square feet and Car Parking Area of about 2,000 Sq.ft. from the interested owners / builders having clear, marketable and absolute title for sale of their building in the Greater Chennai Corporation limit of Chennai City with approved building plans issued by local authority for establishing Trade Promotion Centre cum Guest House for V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority at Chennai.

4. **The Preferable location is Anna Nagar, Koyambedu, Egmore, Adyar &Guindy.** Interested owners / builders may submit their application along with **ANNEXURE "A"** comprising the details of company, details of the property etc., Interested parties may submit their "Expression of Interest" addressed to : The Chief Engineer cum Estate Officer, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Civil Engineering Department, Administrative Office, Harbour Estate, Tuticorin – 628 004 **on or before 21st November 2023.**

5. For further information, please visit VOCPA Web site www.vocport.gov.in and contact through e-mail : ce@vocport.gov.in

Sd./-
CHIEF ENGINEER Cum ESTATE OFFICER
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
T.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 (U.P.)
Website : www.lmc.up.nic.in

Tender Notice No.: D/680/EE/23 Dated: 06.11.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Online bids are invited from bidders for **the following work as listed below** and will be received online on the website https://etender.up.nic.in as per time schedule (key dates) in the notice published on the above website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Time Period Years
1.	Selection of Contractor for "Door-to-Door Collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of sweeping Waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, Collection & Transportation of Horticulture Waste and Collection & Storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in **Zone 1, 4, 7 (Package 1)** to designated processing facility/disposal site/collection centres."	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) + GST	Rs 2,04,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Four Lakhs only)	10 Years Extendable up to 5 Years
2.	Selection of Contractor for "Door-to-Door Collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of sweeping Waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, Collection & Transportation of Horticulture Waste and Collection & Storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in **Zone 2, 5, 8 (Package 2)** to designated processing facility/disposal site/collection centres."	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) + GST	Rs 2,13,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Thirteen Lakhs only)	10 Years Extendable up to 5 Years
3.	Selection of Contractor for "Door-to-Door Collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of sweeping Waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, Collection & Transportation of Horticulture Waste and Collection & Storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in **Zone 3, 6 (Package 3)** to designated processing facility/disposal site/collection centres."	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) + GST	Rs 2,06,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Six Lakhs only)	10 Years Extendable up to 5 Years

Manual for paying processing Fee & EMD Payment Online -

- Bidder needs to go to https://induscollect.indusind.com/pay/index.php
- Fill the details in the form and select the payment type Tender Fee/EMD/Security Deposit with other details.
- Post validating, Bidder needs to click on "proceed" Button.
- Bidder will get the option to pay through Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking/Bank Guarantee & NEFT/RTGS Challan Mode.
- For NEFT/RTGS Challan mode - after generating the challan, bidder needs to initiate NEFT/RTGS through their bank as per the beneficiary details provided in the challan.
- Bidder can check the status of the payment.

Event of Calendar:

Sl. No.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Online Tender purchase Start date	08.11.2023 by 5:00 PM
2.	Online Tender purchase End date	23.11.2023 by 5:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End date	24.11.2023 by 3:00 PM
4.	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	15.11.2023 by 4:00 PM
5.	Hard copy of technical submission End date	24.11.2023 by 3:00 PM
6.	Technical Proposal Open Date	24.11.2023 by 5:00 PM

Note: The bidders shall have to submit their bids online and upload the relevant documents from as per key schedule (key dates).

1. The bidders intending to participate in this tender are required to get enrolled/ registered on the e-procurement website **https://etender.up.nic.in** Enrolment / registration on the above portal is mandatory.
2. Tender documents can be purchased only online from **https://etender.up.nic.in** by making online payment as specified above as per key dates. The Bidders shall have to submit their Bids online and upload the relevant documents from as per time schedule (key Dates).
3. Conditional tender will not be accepted and liable to be rejected. LMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
4. Since the online bidders are required to sign their bids online using Digital Certificates, Contractors are advised to obtain the same at the earliest.
5. Send you Prebid queries on **envengmnlko@gmail.com**. Link for Prebid meeting will be shared on your e-mail id.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

INBRIEF

ALL begins delivery of 'India's first' LNG-powered truck

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) said it had commenced delivery of India's first batch of 12 LNG-powered haulage trucks - AVTR 1922 - to Mahanagar Gas in Hosur. With this, Ashok Leyland becomes the first Indian original equipment manufacturer to unveil an in-house LNG engine compliant with BS-VI Stage II emission standard, the commercial vehicle manufacturer said. The AVTR 1922 shares a high degree of commonality with Ashok Leyland's existing diesel truck range, ALL said.

Gland Pharma Q2 profit falls 20% on rise in employee costs

Gland Pharma reported second-quarter consolidated net profit fell almost 20% year-on-year to ₹194 crore, from ₹241.24 crore. While total income rose more than 28% to ₹1,426.57 crore (₹1,110 crore), total expenses increased to ₹1,136.69 crore (₹785.94 crore) on the back of higher outgo on employee benefit. "We ended the first half with ₹2,582.1 crore revenue, a 36% YoY increase and a net profit of ₹388 crore (₹470.4 cr.)," said CEO Srinivas Sadu.

Hindustan Petroleum turned ₹5,827 crore net profit in Q2

State-owned refiner and oil marketeer Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) turned a consolidated net profit of ₹5,826.96 crore in the September quarter. The company had reported ₹2,475.69 crore net loss in the year-earlier period. The net profit came on a decline in total income to ₹1,03,010.71 crore (₹1,14,497.65 crore). Average gross of export duty for the second quarter was $13.33 per barrel as against $8.41 per barrel in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

'Free grains pose medium-term fiscal risks; can spur competitive populism'

PM's move to extend scheme unlikely to hurt current year's fiscal math unless more populist measures unveiled ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections, opine Nomura economists; near-term impact including on inflation seen as being 'manageable'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement extending the free foodgrains programme by five years, adds to medium-term risks but may not impact the fiscal math for the current financial year significantly unless more populist measures are unveiled ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Nomura economists wrote.

"PM Modi's announcement has effectively cemented this into a policy for the medium term... We had expected a six-month extension instead," Nomura's economists Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi wrote in a research note.

Fiscal concern

PM's extension of free foodgrains programme by 5 years, adds to medium-term fiscal risks, write Nomura's Varma and Nandi

- Modi's announcement has effectively cemented this into a policy for the medium term
- The 5 kilograms free foodgrains scheme costs ₹2 lakh crore, or 0.7% of GDP, annually

- Govt. would also be foregoing revenues, which could amount to 0.05% of GDP

"In our view, this reflects the difficulty in withdrawing populist policies, especially ahead of elections... Once announced, free schemes are always difficult to roll back and can lead to competitive populism," they added.

'Subsidy bill to rise'

Although the near-term fiscal and inflation impact of the extension of the 5kg free foodgrains scheme, which costs ₹2 lakh crore or 0.7% of GDP annually, is manageable, the economists reckoned that the government's food subsidy bill would increase over time with procurement costs. Moreover, the government would be foregoing revenues, which could amount to 0.05% of GDP.

Mr. Modi, they noted, had recently spoken out against populist measures and a spate of freebies promised by the opposition Congress party ahead of the Karnataka polls, where it had defeated the BJP.

Merge G-20 presidency outcome with India policy process: FM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India should explore ways to integrate the outcomes of its G20 presidency with its own policy-making process and lead by example, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

"We have delivered a G20 Presidency that has provided clear policy directions for addressing the needs of the majority of the global population whose voices are often unheard in global multilateral forums," she said. "However, we still have work left to do," Ms. Sithraraman told a gathering at a seminar on 'Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth' hosted by the Department of Economic Affairs with the Ministries of Commerce, Skill Development and Labour.

Nirmala Sitharaman

The recovery in the global economy, which has been grappling with multiple crises since the pandemic, remains slow and uneven, she pointed out. "The current pace of global growth remains quite weak, well below the 3.8% average in the two decades before the pandemic and looking ahead over the medium term, growth prospects have weakened further," she added.

"Policy coordination is critical to ensure growth comes back on track and remains strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive. To this effect, the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration underscores the urgency of implementing well-calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies to bolster growth and enhance macroeconomic and financial stability."

RBI could raise rates if oil sees sustained rise: Morgan Stanley

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's central bank could restart its rate increases if Brent crude oil rises and stays above $110 per barrel, widening the country's current account deficit and hurting the rupee, Morgan Stanley said in a note.

"Sustained higher oil prices would... mean that the current account deficit would likely widen to beyond 2.5% of GDP - the comfort zone," economists at Morgan Stanley said.

Morgan Stanley estimates that every $10 rise in oil prices pushes up India's inflation by 50 basis points, assuming the higher costs are passed on to consumers, and widens the current account deficit by 30 basis points.

India's interest rate-setting panel hiked the policy repo rate by 250 basis points between May 2022 and February 2023 to combat inflationary pressures in the economy. It has since held the rate steady at 6.5%, but said it remains focused on lowering inflation to the 4% target. Brent crude oil contract is currently trading near $85.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	64,959	0.92
US Dollar	83.21	-0.01
Gold	61,750	-0.24
Brent oil	86.09	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2246.00	16.15
Adani Ports	802.50	7.10
Apollo Hosp	5164.95	11.75
Asian Paints	3029.30	51.45
Axis Bank	1009.40	20.55
Bajaj Auto	5406.85	37.90
Bajaj Finserv	1564.40	28.25
Bajaj Finance	7562.05	150.55
Bharti Airtel	939.20	8.45
BPCL	366.25	4.75
Britannia Ind	4623.60	84.05
Cipla	1204.10	-2.25
Coal India	316.55	4.55
Divis Lab	3506.70	156.00
Dr Reddys Lab	5338.10	75.05
Eicher Motors	3510.95	82.95
Grasim Ind	1918.70	22.50
HCL Tech	1269.70	3.45
HDFC Bank	1494.50	10.75
HDFC Life	621.80	-0.30
Hero MotoCorp	3166.90	77.50
Hindalco	481.95	6.75
Hind Unilever	2497.40	-11.85
ICICI Bank	945.45	11.65
IndusInd Bank	1470.25	20.00
Infosys	1403.30	14.25
ITC	435.35	2.10
JSW Steel	754.00	7.95
Kotak Bank	1740.20	6.95
L&T	2975.45	64.20
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5149.65	14.70
M&M	1488.30	19.30
Maruti Suzuki	10284.85	8.55
NestleIndia	24289.55	290.50
NTPC	235.85	1.50
ONGC	193.30	3.30
PowerGrid Corp	208.20	3.80
Reliance Ind	2339.00	19.30
SBI Life	1331.85	2.50
State Bank	574.35	-3.80
Sun Pharma	1150.00	8.90
TataConsumerProduct	918.65	4.95
Tata Motors	646.05	-1.45
Tata Steel	119.40	2.10
TCS	3380.25	29.35
Tech Mahindra	1142.15	9.05
Titan	3267.05	-7.45
UltraTech Cement	8640.95	118.35
UPL	554.70	4.40
Wipro	384.65	1.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.02	83.34
Euro	89.25	89.60
British Pound	103.07	103.47
Japanese Yen (100)	55.47	55.68
Chinese Yuan	11.42	11.47
Swiss Franc	92.62	92.98
Singapore Dollar	61.54	61.79
Canadian Dollar	60.87	61.11
Malaysian Ringitt	17.91	17.99
Australian Dollar	54.04	54.25

Source:Indian Bank

PNB Housing to restart corporate lending: MD

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

PNB Housing Finance Ltd. is planning to recommence lending to the corporate sector in the next two-three quarters, said MD & CEO Girish Kousgi.

"Right now, our focus is on retail lending, which constitutes 96% of our loan book," he said. "Corporate lending will be taken up to help retail growth."

According to him, the housing finance firm had to wind down corporate lending following an increase in bad debts. The affordable housing finance scheme, Roshni, was unveiled eight months ago.

"In the last six months, we did a business of ₹750-crore under Roshni and it would touch ₹1,000 crore during this quarter and ₹2,000 crore by March 2024," he said. "Going forward, the ratio between 'Prime' (it's retail lending product) and affordable housing will be maintained at 60:40." Meanwhile, PNB Housing opened its first all-women branch in Chennai. It also marked PNB Housing's 100th affordable housing- focused branch.

FADA red flags 'high inventory levels' in PVs

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Even as the month of October witnessed a 13% growth in automobile sales, high inventory levels in the passenger vehicle (PV) segment have raised concerns, with the Federation of Associations of Automobile Dealers asking original equipment manufacturers to moderate despatches and offer schemes.

Two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles, tractors, and commercial vehicles reported a month-on-month growth of 15%, 2%, 7%, 15% and 10% respectively in October 2023, according to data released by FADA.

"High inventory levels in PVs, at a critical 63-66 days' range, demand urgent attention from OEMs," the automobile dealers body said in a statement. "Without substantial interventions and if Diwali sales don't rise to the occasion, the weight of unsold stock could lead to significant dealer distress," FADA said, adding it might lead to industry-wide repercussions.

Pilots' concerns over fatigue being taken seriously: Elbers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Pilots' concerns over mounting levels of fatigue as domestic air travel surpasses pre-COVID levels are being taken "seriously" and need a "holistic and considerate" approach, IndiGo's CEO Pieter Elbers said on Monday.

"We are working closely with the regulator. We will also look at framework of working hours in the EU and U.S. and see how it compares with the Indian framework. Approaches like this and topics like this require a very considerate, holistic and in-depth approach," Mr. Elbers said at a press interaction.

Pieter Elbers

Following the recent death of an IndiGo pilot due to a cardiac arrest at the boarding gate at Nagpur airport, many pilots have spoken about a rising number of medically unfit pilots at the airline and alleged that fatigue reports submitted to the airline were not being acted upon. The DGCA last week issued draft rules on pilot duty hours proposing to increase their rest period.

IndiGo is separately conducting a trial of a fatigue analysis tool to assess pilot alertness levels.

Mr. Elbers also said IndiGo was engaged with the DGCA over its decision in July to impose a fine of ₹30 lakh on the carrier for a series of tail-strike incidents, which the regulator had said were due to the airline carrying out landings at variance with procedures in the Airbus manual.

Some pilots have alleged that the tail strikes could be partly due to an "exponential increase" in working hours apart from an "overemphasis" by the carrier on fuel savings.

Sundaram Finance Q2 standalone net rises 21% to ₹366 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundaram Finance Ltd. standalone net profit for the September quarter rose 21% over the year earlier period to ₹366 crore due to growth in interest income and other income.

Total revenue from operations increased from ₹1,048 crore to ₹1,375 crore. Disbursements recorded 35% growth to ₹6,941 crore and net interest income grew 19%, the NBFC said in a statement.

Assets under management for the first half grew by 25% to ₹40,106 crore.

Gross and Net non-performing assets declined to 2.89% and 2.06%, respectively, from 4.29% and 2.97%, respectively.

Return on assets marginally rose to 2.95% from 2.94% and capital adequacy contracted to 19.9% from 24.3%.

"Our group companies in asset management, general insurance and home finance have continued their trajectory from FY23," said Executive Vice Chairman, Harsha Viji. "We continue to rely on our approach of steady and sustainable growth with best-in-class asset quality and consistent profitability," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.CE-W.B.P.(O) - 28 / 2023-24

Tender for the work at **Sl.01** "Construction of H.L Bridge over river Palapala at 1st km on Balidiha to Bhausuni Road in the District of Mayurbhanj under State Plan for the year 2023-24, **Sl. No.02** "Construction of H. L. Bridge over Gadpaharjore Nallah at 5.120km on SH-10 to Saletikra via Talpatia and Old Talpatia road in the District of Jharsuguda under State Plan for the year 2023-24" **Sl. No.03** "Construction of H.L Bridge over river Kusumi at 3/500km on Pratapprasad-Darpanarayanpur Road in the District of Nayagarh under State Plan for the year 2023-24, **Sl. No.05** Construction of H. L. Bridge over Local Nallah at 2.200km on Jammal to Kukerama road in the District of Jharsuguda under State Plan for the year 2023-24, **Sl. No.06** "Construction of H.L Bridge over Local Nallah on Baramile-Kujidihi Road at 1/800KM in the District of Mayurbhanj under State Plan **Sl. No. 07** "Construction of H.L Bridge over Jaunli Nallah on Upermunda Sado Phulkusum Road in the District of Sambalpur under State Plan for the year 2023-24" **Sl. No. 09** "Construction of H.L Bridge over Shedo Nallah on Bhojpur Loimura road at 2.300km (ODR) in the District of Sambalpur under State Plan for the year 2023-24, **Sl. No.10** "Construction of H.L Bridge over Mohanty Nallah at 36.400 KM on DDBM Road in the District of Mayurbhanj under State Plan" **Sl. No.11** "Construction of H. L. Bridge over Kandhapada at 55.200km on Boinda - Athamallik Kiakata road in the District of Angul under State Plan for the year 2023-24 invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-WBP (O) - 28 / 2023 - 24 are cancelled due to Administrative reasons. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1194 : OIPR-34003/11/0053/2324

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-10914

Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7482/P-1/EMP-12480
dated: 03.11.2023

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2023_POWER_112002_1 for the Procurement of MS Nuts & Bolts under FS Group for the year 2023-24 for whole plant.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06-11-2023/ 05.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

RTP-133/23 **76155/12/2368/2023/29544**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regdoffice: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact no. 96461-17604, 96461-17659)

Tender Enquiry no. 1596/PMC/O&M/PC-2488 **Dated: 03-11-2023**

Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, LehraMohabbat, invites E-tender for the **Procurement of Numerical Relays,** Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from **03-11-2023** at 17:00 hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

GHTP-91/23 **76155/12/2367/2023/29543**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.CE-W.B.P.(O) - 26 / 2023-24

Tender for the work at **Sl.02** "Construction of H. L. Bridge over Ramial at 8th km Kathakhura PWD road via Bhairpur Panchayat Santarpur - Bank Ula - Sana Brahmapur - Balisahi to Lokanathapur Flood Embankment to Baligorada Motta - Jodapal Chhak in the District of Dhenkanal under State Plan, **Sl. 03** "Construction of H. L. Bridge over Local Nallah at 5.800km on Salhetikra to Badehi road in the District of Jharsuguda under Plan for the year 2023-24" invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-WBP (O) - 26 / 2023 - 24 are hereby cancelled due to Administrative reasons. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1195 : OIPR-34003/11/0054/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 32 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :
2. Nature of work : **Bridge works**
3. No. of work : **04 nos.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **A / Special Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 AM of 07.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 23.11.2023**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.24.11.2023 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF(CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1193: OIPR-34003/11/0052/2324

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शारःसीएमजी सिविलः अनुरक्षणः ई–जन निविदा / No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-18/23-24 तिथि/ Date. 03.11.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"एसडीएससी शार के फेज–I व फेज–II क्षेत्रों में सं. 50 क्वार्टरों का सिविल मरम्मत कार्य"** (टी/सी-23-069, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 72.10 लाख), **"तकनीकी परिसर, एफएलपी में पीयू के साथ रंगाई–पुताई"** (टी/सी-23-070, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 13.70 लाख), **"एसवीएबी एसडीएससी शार में कड़ीबद्ध बाड़े प्रदान करना"** (टी/सी-23-071 अनुमानित लागत ₹ 18.30 लाख), **"प्रशासन भवन कीपाकम में आरसीसी उपसंरचना व इस्पात कॉलम कार्य"** (टी/सी-23-072, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 12.91 लाख), **"एसएमपीसी यूनिट–1 में नवीन सुरक्षा पट्टों का नवीनीकरण एवं स्थापना"** (टी/सी-23-073, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 9.76 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **21.11.2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Civil repairs works of 50 Nos qtrs @ PHC I & II areas, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-23-069, Est. cost ₹ 72.10 Lakhs); **"Painting with PU at Technical Complex, FLP "** (T/C-23-070, Est. cost ₹ 13.70 Lakhs); **"Providing chain link fencing at SVAB, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-23-071, Est. cost ₹ 18.30 Lakhs); **"Providing RCC Substructure & steel column works @ Admin bldg, Keepakam"** (T/C-23-072, Est. cost ₹ 12.91 Lakhs); **"Refurbishment & Installation of New safety boards, SMPC Unit-1"** (T/C-23-073, Est. cost ₹ 9.76 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to **21.11.2023**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

THE KING

Kohli is 'absolute best' batter in the world, says Ponting

K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli is the "absolute best" batter in the world on the basis of his overall record and he did not need to equal legendary Sachin Tendulkar's record number of ODI hundreds to earn that tag, feels Ricky Ponting. "There is no doubt he is the absolute best and I have said that for a long time," Ponting said.

TRIAL BY FIRE

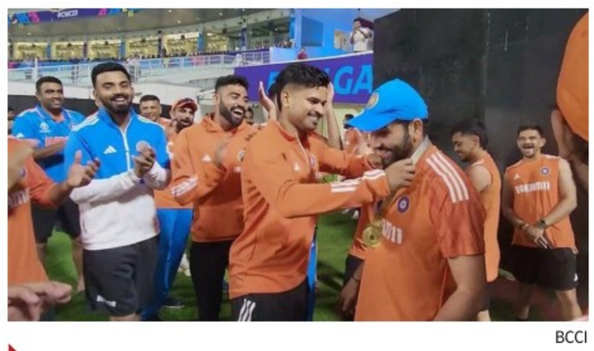
Ponting says India's bowling attack has clearly been the best

K.R. DEEPAK

Ricky Ponting said India bowlers have left a strong impact in many of the Men in Blue's wins in the ICC World Cup. "What we have seen in this World Cup so far, is that India's bowling attack has clearly been the best. Opposition teams are going to have to put a lot of analysis into how they play the pacers," Ponting said.

CAMARADERIE

Skipper Rohit wins fielding medal after India mauls South Africa



BCCI

Fielding coach T. Dilip has been very creative in how he has presented the medals to his players, who have been very keen to receive them, frequently gesticulating on the pitch about winning one after taking a catch. The anticipation rises in the clip posted by BCCI before the mobile camera freezes at Rohit Sharma.

TRIAL RUN

Loss to India in group stage an eye-opener, says Maharaj

K.R. DEEPAK

Losing to India in the group stage of the World Cup was an eye-opener for South Africa who hopes to rectify its mistakes for a possible battle in the final, feels Keshav Maharaj. "I think it was a good trial run. Hopefully, they do progress further after the semifinal. We need to know where we can get better."

Shanto-Shakib partnership trumps Asalanka's century

Mathews becomes the first ever batter to be timed out in international cricket as he fails to be ready to face the ball within the required two minutes after the fall of a wicket; Bangladesh registers its second win, knocks Sri Lanka out

Guiding hands: Shanto top scored with 90 as Bangladesh cruised to victory with more than eight overs to spare. R.V. MOORTHY

ODI WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

Poor air quality in the Indian capital was expected to be the talking point on this day, but it was a historic dismissal that triggered animated conversations that would continue long after the World Cup is over.

Angelo Mathews became the first ever batter to be timed out in international cricket as he failed to be ready to face the ball within the required two minutes after the fall of a wicket.

There was, however, more to the match played before a big crowd at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday: a splendid hundred by Charith Asalanka who helped the Lankans post a competitive total of 279 after being put in, a superbly constructed third-wicket stand of 169 between Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan and Najmul Shanto and something of a redeeming act by Mathews, which, however, would not be enough.

Bangladesh won by three wickets with 8.5 overs to spare. After the loss of the openers Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das inside the PowerPlay, Shanto (90, 101b, 12x4) and Shakib (82, 65b, 12x4, 2x6) took the game away from the Lankans. They were both sent back by Mathews who didn't forget to signal to Shakib that it was time to go.

If the Sri Lankan batting could recover from the horrors of the Wankhede, where it had been shot out for 55 by India, and then all the drama surrounding Mathews dismissal, that was largely due to Asalanka (108, 105b, 6x4, 5x6).

The islanders had lost Kusal Perera in the opening over itself, bowled by Shoriful Islam, as 'keeper Mushfiqur Rahim took a sensational catch in front of first slip fielder, diving acrobatically. The other opener Pathum Nissanka (41, 36b, 8x4) and skipper Kusal Mendis, however, ensured there was little likelihood of a repeat of the tragedy in Mumbai, as they added 61 for the second wicket.

But, Mendis fell to an excellent catch at long-on by Shoriful, and Nissanka was bowled off an inside edge by Tanzim Sakib. It was at this stage that Asalanka joined Sadeera Samarawickrama (41, 42b, 4x4), the team's in-form batter.

The fourth-wicket stand was worth 63 when Samarawickrama fell and that was followed by the infamous Mathews dismissal. But Asalanka played some sparkling shots and held the innings together as he got to a well-earned second ODI hundred. But the Lankan total would still fall short.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka b Tanzim 41 *(36b, 8x4)*, Kusal Perera c Mushfiqur b Shoriful 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Kusal Mendis c Shoriful b Shakib 19 *(30b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Sadeera Samarawickrama c Mahmudullah b Shakib 41 *(42b, 4x4)*, Charith Asalanka c Litton b Tanzim 108 *(105b, 6x4, 5x6)*, Angelo Mathews timed out 0 *(0b)*, Dhananjaya de Silva st. Mushfiqur b Mehidy 34 *(36b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Maheesh Theekshana c sub (Nasum) b Shoriful 21 *(31b, 3x4)*, Dushmantha Chameera run out 4 *(9b)*, Kasun Rajitha c Litton b Tanzim 0 *(2b)*, Dilshan Madushanka (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (in 49.3 overs): 279.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Perera, 0.6 overs), 2-66 (Mendis, 11.3), 3-72 (Nissanka, 12.4), 4-135 (Samarawickrama, 24.2), 5-135 (Mathews, 24.2), 6-213 (Dhananjaya, 37.6), 7-258 (Theekshana, 45.6), 8-278 (Asalanka, 48.4), 9-278 (Rajitha, 48.6).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Shoriful 9.3-0-51-2, Taskin 10-1-39-0, Tanzim 10-0-80-3, Shakib 10-0-57-2, Mehidy 10-0-49-1.

BANGLADESH

Tanzid Hasan c Nissanka b Madushanka 9 *(5b, 2x4)*, Litton Das lbw b Madushanka 23 *(22b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Najmul Hossain Shanto b Mathews 90 *(101b, 12x4)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Asalanka b Mathews 82 *(65b, 12x4, 2x6)*, Mahmudullah b Theekshana 22 *(23b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Mushfiqur Rahim b Madushanka 10 *(13b, 1x4)*, Towhid Hridoy (not out) 15 *(7b, 2x6)*, Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Asalanka b Theekshana 3 *(5b)*, Tanzim Hasan Sakib (not out) 5 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-13, w-10): 23; Total (for seven wkts. in 41.1 overs): 282.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Tanzid, 2.1), 2-41 (Litton, 6.2), 3-210 (Shakib, 31.1), 4-211 (Najmul, 33.2), 5-249 (Mushfiqur, 37.4), 6-255 (Mahmudullah, 38.3), 7-269 (Mehidy, 40.1).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Madushanka 10-1-69-3, Theekshana 9-0-44-2, Rajitha 4-0-47-0, Chameera 8-0-54-0, Mathews 7.1-1-35-2, Dhananjaya 3-0-20-0.

Toss: Bangladesh; **PoM:** Shakib.
Bangladesh won by three wickets with 53 balls to spare.

Next assignment

SRI LANKA: November 9 vs. **New Zealand,** *Bengaluru, 2 p.m.*

BANGLADESH: November 11 vs. **Australia,** *Pune, 10.30 a.m.*

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	8	8	0	16	2.456
South Africa (Q)	8	6	2	12	1.376
Australia	7	5	2	10	0.924
New Zealand	8	4	4	8	0.398
Pakistan	8	4	4	8	0.036
Afghanistan	7	4	3	8	-0.330
Bangladesh (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.142
Sri Lanka (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.160
Netherlands	7	2	5	4	-1.398
England (E)	7	1	6	2	-1.504

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

Well within time: Mathews; no regrets at all: Shakib

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

Ticked off: Mathews, who had been Timed Out, indicates to Shakib that his time at the crease is up. R.V. MOORTHY & GETTY IMAGES

Something strange happened on Monday afternoon. Something that hadn't happened in international cricket before: a batter getting Timed Out.

Angelo Mathews failed to get ready to take strike within the stipulated time of two minutes after the fall of the fourth Sri Lankan wicket in the World Cup match against Bangladesh here on Monday. The veteran all-rounder had some issues with his helmet, which he got replaced, but the damage had been done.

Bangladesh won the match by three wickets. It was clear that no love was lost between the two sides; there were no handshakes.

Then the post-match press conferences seemed an extension of what happened on the field. Mathews was livid. Shakib was unapologetic.

"No regrets at all," he said. "One of our fielders came to me and said, if you appeal, the law says he is out because he hasn't taken his guard within the time frame. So then I appealed to the umpires; umpire told me whether you are going to call him back or not, if I said he is out, then you call him back, it doesn't look good. I said I won't call him back. We played the Under-19 together, World Cup. I know Angelo for a long, long time, since 2006. Yeah, unfortunate, but within the rules."

Mathews said he had done nothing wrong. "I have two minutes to get to the crease and get myself ready, which I did," he said. "And then it was an equipment malfunction. And I don't know where the common sense went, because it's obviously disgraceful from Shakib and Bangladesh; if they want to play cricket like that, stooping down to that level, I think there's something wrong drastically... I still had five more seconds to go. And the umpires also have said to our coaches that they didn't see my helmet breaking."

Mathews added, "We have the video evidence where from the time the catch was taken, and then from the time I walked into the crease, I still had five seconds after breaking my helmet... I think the umpires also had a bigger job at the time, because they could have at least gone back and checked.

Timed-Out batters

1. **Andrew Jordaan** - *Eastern Province vs. Transvaal* (couldn't reach the ground due to flooded roads)
2. **Hemulal Yadav** - *Tripura vs. Orissa* (chatting with coach on the boundary edge)
3. **Vasbert Drakes** - *Border vs. Free State* (flight to the game was delayed)
4. **A.J. Harris** - *Nottinghamshire vs. Durham UCCE* (had a groin strain and took too long to walk out)
5. **Ryan Austin** - *CCC vs. Windward Islands* (failed to reach the crease in time)
6. **Charles Kunje** - *Matabeleland vs. Mountaineers* (no information known)
7. **Angelo Mathews** - *Bangladesh vs. Sri Lanka* (helmet strap malfunctioned when taking guard)

Credit: bbc.com

A record equalled and an Indian win — a perfect birthday gift for Kohli

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
KOLKATA

The baton of India's batting excellence has witnessed a seamless transition over the last five decades. Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar and then Virat Kohli headlined this movement. Interestingly, Tendulkar was Gavaskar's fan, and equally he remains Kohli's idol.

Terrific trio

There were other terrific batters in their respective eras including current India coach Rahul Dravid but the troika of Gavaskar, Tendulkar and Kohli reign supreme.

If Gavaskar set the benchmarks for Tendulkar to scale, the latter pushed the envelope both in the longer version and ODIs and provided the motivation for Kohli to launch a respectful pursuit.

Eden Gardens was pulsating with energy on Sunday and Kohli, on his 35th birthday, as always was a magnet for cameras.

He was everywhere, giving a pep talk in the team huddle before the World Cup game against South Africa, doing impromptu dance steps while the latest Bollywood numbers emanated from the stands, and pumping his fists like an animated teenager. This was King Kohli embracing the limelight.

Tendulkar's overall numbers are staggering and perhaps beyond reach. But when you get into the granular details, maybe the odd record could be hunted down.

His tally of 49 ODI tons is a massive edifice, and for Kohli to draw level with it in fewer innings (277 to Tendulkar's 451) is a testament to his prodigal talent right from his under-19 days.

The method

The greats tend to have an initial flourish leading to a sedate middle segment before a second wind ushers in a glorious finale.

Tendulkar had issues like the tennis elbow and the rare form-blip before slamming a double century, ODI cricket's first, in the latter part of his career.

Kohli dealt with the demons for three seasons, promising much, departing early, offering cameos and coping with captaincy angst. A feisty leader with good results, Kohli, like Tendulkar, also needed to get away from the hot seat to infuse fresh life into his batting.

Double delight: India's emphatic win against South Africa was the icing on the cake for Kohli. K.R. DEEPAK

The results have been evident over the last year and his blistering knock (82 n.o., 53b, 6x4, 4x6) against Pakistan in the 2022 T20 World Cup game at the MCG in Australia was perhaps a homage to the young Tendulkar of the 'Desert Storm' fame and equally a self-validation tool.

That Rohit Sharma, Kohli's fellow ODI great and skipper rushed out and hoisted him on his shoulders was further proof of the return of the king.

Kohli's 49th century (101 n.o., 121b, 10x4) was more an in-the-trenches outing, and unlike the usual highlights-reel package he dishes out.

It was a knock based on situational awareness about a pitch that wasn't a featherbed and one that offered initial purchase to South African spinners Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi.

The maestro chased those singles and twos, found an ally in Shreyas Iyer, and played a few shots through the gaps.

This was more Javed Miandad in spirit than that young Kohli who once caned Lasith Malinga all over the park.

But this was an effort that eventually set the stage for India's phenomenal 243-run triumph over Temba Bavuma's men.

A record equalled and an Indian victory, Kohli couldn't have asked for a better birthday gift!

Australia up against resurgent Afghanistan, eyes last-four spot

Cummins' men have been on a roll and will look for a sixth win on the trot; the latter, coming into the match after three consecutive victories, also stands a chance if it prevails in the next two outings and betters its net run rate

ODI WORLD CUP

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

An intense battle awaits when Australia and Afghanistan meet in a must-win World Cup fixture at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday. A win from its remaining two fixtures will seal a semifinal berth for Australia, while Afghanistan, too, stands a chance if it wins the next two games and betters its net run rate.

In their previous three ODI outings Afghanistan lost on every occasion. But this time around, three consecutive wins have breathed life into its campaign and it would be desperate keep the momentum going. But it won't be an easy affair.

After two early losses, Australia regrouped to win five matches on the trot. Though there are concerns over Steve Smith's availability after he reported symptoms of vertigo, the five-time champion will be glad to have Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell back.

The previous three fixtures at the iconic venue have witnessed 350-plus totals by teams batting first and Australia will count on its seasoned opener David Warner to fire. Warner has amassed 428 runs in seven matches, with two centuries and a fifty, and the onus will be on him to guide the team to a big total. Travis Head, with 120 runs in two innings, has shown glimpses of his brilliance and even if Smith is unavailable, Australia has enough depth.

In Delhi and Chennai, Afghanistan spun out Pakistan and England, making the most of the spin-friendly conditions. But on a flat deck in Mumbai, spinners have hardly had an impact in the last few games. So, Afghanistan needs to decide whether it plays an extra spinner in Noor Ahmad – along with regulars Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb ur Rahman – or brings in pacer Naveen-ul Haq.

The top-three Afghan batters – Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rahmat Shah and Ibrahim Zadran – have amassed 730 runs in seven outings. Captain Shahidi tops the chart for the side with 282. However, against a quality attack led by skipper Cummins, the batters will be put to test.

Today's match

Australia vs. Afghanistan

Mumbai, **2 p.m.**

H2H IN ODIs

Played **3**

Australia	Afghanistan
3	0

EYE ON THE SKY

High: **34**°C
Low: **25**°C
Partly cloudy

SOURCE: IMD

Tapping his way to success: Young Noor Ahmad has performed creditably whenever he got to play. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Smith reveals recurrence of vertigo, hopes to play

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Ahead of Australia's must-win World Cup game against Afghanistan at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday, Steve Smith revealed that he had suffered a recurrence of vertigo – a condition that has bothered him on several occasions in recent years.

As he addressed the media on the eve of the game, Smith looked in discomfort, but the seasoned campaigner was hopeful of recovering ahead of the fixture. "I have had a bit of vertigo stuff for the last day or so. It's a bit annoying. Hopefully I can get through training and I'm all good. But it's not a nice place to be," Smith said.

"I've had a few episodes. I can tell you it's not a fun space to be in. But I'll go out and have a hit. Hopefully I am okay," he said, adding: "I think I will be okay. I'm not feeling great at present."

In November 2020, Smith scored a century against India in an ODI in Sydney overcoming 'a bad dose of vertigo'. Even last year, ahead of the Test tour of Pakistan, he had complained of similar symptoms after hitting his head while attempting a catch.

However, he batted for a while in the nets on Monday and attempted quite a few sweeps against local spinners.

Australia is currently placed in the points table and a win against Afghanistan will guide it to the semifinals.

While the team missed out on the services of Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh in the last game, Smith revealed that Marsh, who lost his grandfather recently, is back with the squad. "Marsh's here, he's here at training today and Max is here as well so yeah, I assume they're training and whether they're available tomorrow I have no idea." said Smith.

Tuning up: Australia's Smith at a practice session on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Afghan team has a great time with Tendulkar

Legend's presence: Tendulkar met Afghanistan team members on Monday ahead of their match against Australia. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

It was a memorable Monday evening for Afghanistan cricketers as they got a chance to meet and interact with former India captain Sachin Tendulkar on the eve of their must-win World Cup fixture against Australia.

Before their training got underway at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday evening, the players got into a huddle with Tendulkar joining them for a pep-talk.

For the next 20 minutes, the players had a long interaction with the Indian legend, who was a key member of the country's 2011 World Cup-winning squad, after which Tendulkar took a walk around the pitch along with his old friend Ajay Jadeja, who is now the mentor of the Afghanistan team, and coach Jonathan Trott. He also spoke at length with Afghanistan Cricket Board chief Mirwais Ashraf about the team's journey so far.

Sportstar understands that it was Jadeja who facilitated the meeting and ensured that the players got some time to pick the brains of the legend.

"For a long time, the players were looking forward to meeting him. And since the team is Mumbai, Ajay sir invited him to have an interaction with the players. It was a fantastic moment," a team source said.

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi, too, was excited about the meeting with Tendulkar. "This is our first meeting with him," Shahidi said with a smile.

"We all are excited because he's a legend of the game. "We were watching him on TV as a successful player. He is a role model for a lot of our players. So, it will be an exciting time for the entire team," he said.

Verstappen wins yet again, but Alonso and Perez steal the show

One more: Verstappen took a record-extending 17th win at the Sao Paulo GP on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Reuters
SAO PAULO

Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen took a record-extending 17th win of the Formula One season in Brazil on Sunday after leading a red-flagged and re-started Sao Paulo Grand Prix from pole position.

McLaren's Lando Norris finished second, 8.2 seconds behind but with a bonus point for fastest lap, while Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso took third place on the final lap after a thrilling battle with Red Bull's Sergio Perez. Verstappen clinched the title in Qatar last month while Red Bull has also retained its constructors' title.

Alonso crossed the finish line just 0.053 seconds ahead of the Mexican after Perez passed him on the penultimate lap and Alonso grabbed the place back on the last.

Ferrari suffered a blow before the race had even started when Charles Leclerc, who had qualified on the front row, crashed out on the formation lap.A collision into the first corner involving Haas pair Kevin Magnussen and Nico Hulkenberg and Williams's Alex Albon triggered the safety car before the race was red-flagged for repairs to the tyre barrier.

The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull)1:56:48.894; 2. Norris (Mclaren) +8.277s; 3. Alonso (Aston Martin) 34.155; 4. Perez (Red Bull) +34.208; 5. Stroll (Aston Martin) +40.845; 6. Sainz (Ferrari) +50.188; 7. Gasly (Alpine) +56.093; 8. Hamilton (Mercedes) +62.859; 9. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) +69.880; **+1 lap:** 10. Ocon (Alpine); 11. Sargeant (Williams); 12. Hulkenberg (Haas); 13. Ricciardo (AlphaTauri); **+2 laps:** 14. Piastri (Mclaren); **DNF:** Russell (Mercedes); Bottas (Alfa Romeo); Guanyu (Alfa Romeo); Magnussen (Haas); Albon (Williams); **DNS:** Leclerc (Ferrari).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 524; 2. Perez 258; 3. Hamilton 226; 4. Alonso 198; 5. Norris 195; **Constructors:** 1. Red Bull 782; 2. Mercedes 382; 3. Ferrari 362; 4. McLaren 282; 5. Aston Martin 261.

It's Isle of Joy for Vidit and Vaishali

Sweet success: Vaishali and Vidit after winning the FIDE Grand Swiss chess tournament at the Isle of Man. FIDE

Sports Bureau

In the excitement of India's annihilation of its rivals at the ongoing cricket World Cup at home, it would have been easy to overlook what was happening at a place called the Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea. But we shouldn't.

For, India recorded one of its greatest moments in chess on November 5, winning both titles at the Grand Swiss tournament.

Vidit Gujrathi emerged the open champion, while R. Vaishali claimed the women's title; they both earned places in the Candidates tournament, the qualifying event for the World Chess championship match.

Vaishali needed only a draw in the final round against Batkhuyag Mongontuul and she got it with ease.

The 22-year-old finished with 8.5 points – a clear first – half-a-point ahead of Anna Muzychuk.

Vidit, however, needed to win his final round game and he also needed the other top boards to finish the way he wanted. Vidit defeated Alexandr Predke, while his rivals, Nakamura was held to a draw by Arjun Erigaisi and Andrey Esipenko was beaten by Anish Giri. Vidit thus became the champion with 8.5 points.

The 29-year-old from Nashik also became the second Indian to make it to the next year's Candidates after R. Praggnanandhaa.

Praggnanandhaa's elder sister Vaishali's feat doubled the joy for his family.

The winner of the open Candidates tournament will earn the right to challenge Ding Liren for the World title, while the women's champion will take on Ju Wenjun.

Swiatek eases past Sabalenka, enters final

WTA FINALS

Agence France-Presse
CANCUN

Second-ranked Iga Swiatek defeated World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to reach the title match of the WTA Finals, where she will face fellow unbeaten Jessica Pegula.

By downing the reigning Australian Open champion, Swiatek denied Sabalenka a victory that would have clinched the year-end top ranking for the 25-year-old from Belarus.

Instead, reigning French Open champion Swiatek of Poland can claim the year-end World No. 1 spot for the second consecutive season by defeating American Pegula in Monday's championship match.

A breeze: Swiatek made short work of Sabalenka, denying the Belarusian the year-end top ranking. GETTY IMAGES

Pegula beat compatriot Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-1 in an hour on Saturday to reach the WTA Finals championship match, stretching her overall win streak to nine.

Swiatek owns a 5-3 career edge over Pegula in their rivalry but the American has won two of their three meetings this year, at the United Cup and in an August semifinal on Montreal hardcourts. Swiatek had defeated Pegula in this year's Doha final.

The final was postponed to Monday due to rain that played havoc with the week's schedule at the outdoor hardcourts in Cancun, Mexico – including stopping Swiatek and Sabalenka only three games into their semifinal contest on Saturday night.

Swiatek was ahead 2-1 on serve when play resumed on Sunday and the Pole went on the grab the only break of the opening set.

Early break

Swiatek broke early in the second set and broke again for 5-2 with an overhead smash, then held serve to win on her first match point on a service winner.

Sabalenka had beaten Swiatek in last year's WTA Finals semifinals and they had split two prior meetings this year, both on clay.

The result (semifinal):
Iga Swiatek bt Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2.

INBRIEF

Services to meet Manipur in National Games football final

Services and Manipur posted contrasting wins to enter the men's football final of the 37th National Games in Fatorda The final will be played on Wednesday. Services defeated Kerala 4-2 while Manipur beat Punjab 2-1 in the semifinals.

Akshay Bohra finishes second in race two, wins the third

Akshay Bohra, who won the first Indian Formula 4 race on Saturday, continued his fine run by finishing second in race two and winning the third race of the weekend as the first round of the Indian Racing Festival concluded here at the Madras International Circuit, Chennai, on Sunday. In the second race of the weekend, Australian Cooper Webster won comfortably by a margin of six seconds ahead of Bohra, with Shahan Ali Moshin completing the top three. In race three, Bohra cruised to his second victory of the weekend ahead of Webster and Alex Sawer.

Poland's Azs Buboslavia emerges the winner

Poland's Azs Buboslavia beat Formidables 112.5 to 96 to clinch the Team of Four Gold trophy in the 20th HCL International bridge championship in New Delhi on Sunday. The champion team won a cash prize of ₹44,00,000 for lifting the Naresh Tandan trophy. "We have finished runner-up for the second time", said Kiran Nadar, leader of the Formidables team, and chairperson of the organising committee.

The results: Team of four gold (final): Azs Buboslavia, Poland (Kamil Nowak, Piotr Marcinowski, Jakub Patreuha, Patryk Patreuha) bt Formidables (Kiran Nadar, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee, Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy) 112.5-96.
Third place: Poland bt Hemant Jalan 144.5-93.
Team of four silver (final): Standard Plus (Rajeev, Sukumaran Rajeev, Sahirudeen, Asok Jose lean, Ranga Khadioya, Nizamudeean Shahul Hamid, Franz Mundaden) bt Shiv Shakti (Goutam Chatterjee, Sanjit Bhattacharjee, Sanjib Ganguly, Prabir Kumar Thakur, Manoj Kumar Dey Tapan Kumar Bhattacharya) 98-74.
Third place: ICSA Coolers bt Mind Crusaders 93-69.
Open MP pairs gold: 1. Boye Brogeland & Christian Bakke 437.3; 2. Julian Stefanov & Vladimir Mihov 428.9; 3. Jerry Stamatov & Ivan Nanev 410.1.
Open MP pairs silver: 1. Mukund Jagannathan & Gautam Biswas 366.8; 2. R.G. Bhiwandkar & Subhash Dhakras 345.3; 3. Priya Sinha & Koushik Mukherjee 332.5.
IMP pairs: 1. Binod Kumar Shaw & Sanjit Dey; 2. Mithun Mukherjee & Soumya Das; 3. Rashebul Hassan & Md. Amirul Islam.

Narine announces retirement from international cricket

West Indies all-rounder Sunil Narine announced his retirement from international cricket on Sunday. Narine, who had an illustrious eight-year career last played for the Men in Maroon in August 2019 in a T20I match.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

Jubilation: The Punjab players are on cloud nine after becoming the champion. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Anmolpreet's ton helps Punjab lift the trophy

The No. 3 batter notches up his first T20 century as his side gets the better of Baroda by 20 runs in the summit clash; Arshdeep picks up three wickets in the penultimate over

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Sahil Mathur
MOHALI

Anmolpreet Singh chose the perfect day to score his maiden T20 century as his 113-run knock helped Punjab clinch its maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title defeating Baroda in the final by 20 runs at the I.S. Bindra stadium here on Monday.

Ninad Rathva (47, 22b, 5x4, 3x6) and Abhimanyusingh Rajput (61, 42b, 3x4, 4x6) kept Baroda in the hunt – helped by some sloppy fielding by Punjab which put down four catches.

However, the fate of the game was sealed in the penultimate over of a thrilling run chase when Arshdeep Singh brought his A-game and picked up three wickets including that of Krunal Pandya (45, 32b 3x4 1x6), Shivalik Sharma and Bhanu Pania.

Despite the dew in the second half, a 224-run target proved beyond Baroda's reach and Punjab won the title in front of the home crowd.

Earlier, Anmolpreet smacked a 58-ball ton and added 138 for the fourth wicket with Nehal Wadhera, who scored an entertaining 61 (27b, 6x4, 4x6).

Put in, Punjab started badly as Abhishek Sharma was out for a golden duck and Prabhsimran Singh went for nine. Krunal Pandya then sent back Mandeep Singh, who attempted a reverse sweep as the score read 80 for three.

But the Anmolpreet-Nehal partnership was the highlight of the innings in front of a decent turnout that cheered the local favourites.

The Baroda bowlers wavered in their line and lengths as the Punjab duo sent every full toss to the fence – nine sixes and three fours came off the last 21 balls – and got the team to 223 for four in its 20 overs.

Apart from Krunal Pandya, who finished his quota with one for 30, the other bowlers had a forgettable outing.

The scores:
Punjab 223/4 in 20 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 113, Mandeep Singh 32) bt Baroda 203/7 in 20 overs (Ninad Rathva 47, Abhimanyusingh Rajput 61, Krunal Pandya 45, Arshdeep Singh 4/23). **Toss:** Baroda.

Gearing up: Athletes in prep mode on the eve of the junior Nationals. S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Junior Nationals gets underway today

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

The 38th National junior athletics championship for boys and girls, organised by the Tamil Nadu Athletic Association, will get underway at the Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday. The four-day event has attracted 2200 athletes from 29 States and they will compete in four categories – u-14, 16, 18 and 20 years.

The host has fielded 175 athletes of which 92 are boys.

The newly-laid synthetic track, with superior grip and speed, is expected to elevate the performances of the athletes. So don't get surprised if records take a tumble from day one.

Rayo Vallecano holds Real Madrid in thriller

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
MADRID

Jude Bellingham couldn't come through this time and Real Madrid was held by Rayo Vallecano in its Madrid derby on Sunday to drop to second place in the Spanish league.

The 0-0 draw ended Madrid's perfect record at home and kept it from joining Girona at the top after 12 rounds.

Girona had moved three points clear with a 4-2 win at Osasuna on Saturday.

The results:
LaLiga: Real Madrid 0 drew with Rayo Vallecano 0; Villarreal 2 (Moreno 86, Sorloth 87) lost to Athletic Club 3 (Galarreta 2, Nico 22, Iñaki 30).
Serie A: Fiorentina 0 bt Juventus 1 (Miretti 10).
Roma 2 (Azmoun 90+1, Lukaku 90+4) bt Lecce 1 (Almqvist 71).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

One for the album: The Ernakulam region team that secured the gold medal at the 52nd KVS National Chess Sports Meet. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ernakulam claims gold
Ernakulam region, with 20 points, secured the gold medal at the 52nd KVS National Chess Sports Meet that concluded at the Kendriya Vidyalaya MEG & Centre on Monday. Chennai (14.5 points) settled for silver and Bhubaneswar (7) finished with bronze.
Other results (at Kendriya Vidyalaya DRDO): Kabaddi: U-17: Patna region; **U-14:** Ranchi; **Taekwondo:** Guwahati.

Alister, Abhishek shine in Kickstart's win
Alister Anthony and Abhishek Shankar Powar scored a brace each as Kickstart FC beat Young Challengers FC 5-2 in the BDFA Super Division League football on Monday.
The results: Kickstart FC 5 (Alister Anthony 42 & 72, Abhishek Shankar Powar 45+1 & 55, Rajendra Singh Bairola 59) bt Young Challengers FC 2 (E. Devaraj 10, Zabeeth Dousel 20); MEG & Center FC 2 (K. Naveen 19, Ahamed Asrarul Hug 46) bt Rebels FC 1 (K. Tilak Devadatta 51).

Haveri District pips Besant Hockey Club-B
Haveri District HA edged out Besant Hockey Club-B 3-2 in the KSHA-BHA C-division hockey league on Monday.
Also on the day, Warriors SC beat Ascho HC 4-1.

Paurush stars in Vivek's SC victory
Paurush's 26 points helped Vivek's SC defeat Sir MV Diamond BC, Chikkaballapur 89-52 in a men's category match of the State Association Cup basketball tournament on Monday.

The results: SAI Dharwad 54 (Abhishek 16, Suraj 10) bt Belgaum BC 43 (Nitish 16); Southern Blues 69 (Benjamin 21, Pranav 15) bt All Star Mysore 50 (Chandu 19, Manoj 18).

IBBC 56 (Suresh 21, Trishul 19) bt BSNL 46 (Bhuvan 14, Athul 13); MEG 65 (Nithin Biju 20, Mayur 13) bt Pattabhirama Nagar SC 27 (Maitreya 10); Mangalore BC 61 (Prastik 17) bt Hebbal BC 29; Vivek's SC 89 (Paurush 26, Likith 24) bt Sir M.V. Diamond BC, Chikkaballapur 52 (Chinni 21).

Bharath Sports Union 87 (Akshay 20, Sanjay 17) bt YFBC, Kolar 29 (Gagan 19); SAI, Dharwad 62 (Sanket 17, Suraj 13) bt KGF BC 60 (Dhanush 23, Joshwa 12); Beagles BC 81 (Kushal 18) bt Nalvadi Chamrajnagar 52 (Abhi 35).

GST & Customs 87 (Dheeraj 21, Atesh 20) bt MNK Rao 73 (Prabodh 20); Young Orions 93 (Sumanth 26, Pratham 15) bt Kanaka Kolar 38 (Tarun 13); Mangalore BC 56 (Pradyumna 17) bt Dominants BC, Chikkamagaluru 21 (Darshan 12).

You have to take the bull by its horns, says Sumariwalla on tackling doping problem

Stan Rayan
PANAJI

As the distance runners entered the home stretch in the men's 5000m at the recent National Open in Bengaluru, strangely they decided to stick together. Nobody appeared keen to win the race, perhaps worried that they would have to undergo a dope test if they did. And they almost finished as a bunch.

Days before that, many athletes suddenly vanished when the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) officials turned up at the Delhi State Championships. In the end, just one athlete ran the 100m final and a steeplechaser continued to run even after crossing the finish line, to evade dope testers. And many skipped the medals ceremony that dramatic day as dope-testers kept a close watch.

While Indian athletics looks rosy and promising after the fine Asian Games show, there is also the other dark side which is showing its ugly head more and more.

"I think everyone is making too much out of it. There is an issue, yes. Is it a big issue? Very big issue-but by keeping on making a big issue out of it, going to international media and which will get India banned is not what we are looking at," said Adille Sumariwalla, the president of the Athletics Federation of India, in the chat with *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the National Games here.

Sumariwalla. STAN RAYAN

"I'm getting flak from World Athletics, from AIU (Athletics Integrity Unit), from WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency). What can I do, I'm not the police. I can't arrest them, I don't have any powers to do any of that. My only power is reporting."

Incidentally, World Athletics and the AIU have sough a report from the AFI on the Delhi fiasco.

"Now we have an enquiry commission, set up by the chairman of the disciplinary committee, which will look into it. NADA is also looking into it," said Sumariwalla who is also the vice president of World Athletics.

And what about the Bengaluru drama?

"NADA was there, let it take suo moto action, they have the power," he said.

Dilemma
He explained that the increasing number of athletes testing positive is because there are more tests now.

"Today, I've increased to nearly 1500 tests. Before I became president, there were 100 tests. So, more people will get caught. Even if you say 10% are getting caught, that's 150. Out of 100, 10 will get caught. And India will look very good. But that doesn't solve my problem, you have to take the bull by its horns and that is what I'm fighting day and night," said Sumariwalla.

"See, I can stop testing, for me it's very simple. I will not test, very good, I will not have the big numbers."

Aditi tops the chart in compound section

ASIAN ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

Ankita Bhakat tallied 656 points to place 12th in recurve women's individual rankings at the Asian archery championships, an Olympic qualifying event, in Bangkok, on Monday.

In the women's qualification round, Bhajan Kaur, Tisha Punia and Simranjeet Kaur took 16th, 21st and 28th places respectively. The Indian women's team was ranked fifth.

In compound, World champion Aditi Swami topped the chart with 710 points.

V. Jyothi Surekha (third) and Parneet Kaur (fourth) bagged top-five positions to help the women's side claim the number one spot (2105).

Priyansh, who scored 710 points, was second in the men's rankings. World champion Ojas Deotale, fourth among the Indians with 708 points, couldn't make it to the men's team event.

The Indian men's team logged its highest score to be second (2127), a point behind Korea.

The results:

Recurve: Individual: Women: Ankita Bhakat (12th, 656), Bhajan Kaur (16th, 649), Tisha Punia (21st, 642), Simranjeet Kaur (28th, 633.
Team: India: Women (5th, 1947), Mixed (4th, 1338).
Compound: Individual: Men: Priyansh (2nd, 710), Prathamesh Fuge (3rd, 709), Abhishek Verma (6th, 708), Ojas Deotale (7th, 708); **Women:** Aditi Swami (1st, 706), V. Jyothi Surekha (3rd, 700), Parneet Kaur (4th, 699), Muskan Kirar (21st, 679).
Team: India: Men (2nd, 2127), **Women:** (1st, 2105), Mixed (1st, 1416).

Barcelona eyes ticket to the knockout rounds

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

After two years of misery in the Champions League group stage, Barcelona has the chance to book its place in the knock-out rounds against Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday in Hamburg.

The Spanish champion can guarantee progress with a fourth consecutive victory in Group-H, something it has not managed since 2021, when it was knocked out by PSG in the last 16.

Barcelona has improved since Xavi arrived in November that year, winning LaLiga last season, but it has still struggled in Europe and lacked the sparkle.

Despite strolling around Shakhtar in the first half of its 2-1 win at home in October, the Catalans did not put the game to bed and suffered in the final stages as the Ukrainians sought a leveller.

Robert Lewandowski returned from an ankle injury in the *Clasico* as a substitute and started against Real Sociedad but did not contribute much on either occasion.

The fixtures:
Tuesday: Dortmund vs. Newcastle, Shakhtar vs. Barcelona (both at 11.15 p.m.); Atletico Madrid vs. Celtic, Crvena Zvezda vs. RB Leipzig, Lazio vs. Feyenoord, Manchester City vs. Young Boys, Milan vs. PSG, Porto vs. Antwerp (1.30 a.m., Wednesday).
Wednesday:
Napoli vs. Union Berlin, Real Sociedad vs. Benfica (both at 11.15 p.m.); Arsenal vs. Sevilla, Bayern Munich vs. Galatasaray, Kobenhavn vs. Manchester United, PSV vs. Lens, Real Madrid vs. Bragga, Salzburg vs. Inter Milan (1.30 a.m., Thursday).

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